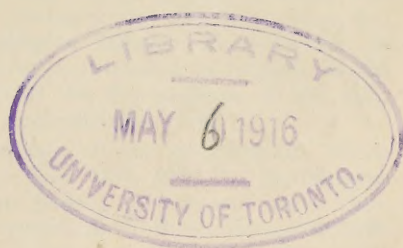


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NOVEMBER 1914

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## The Violation of Belgian Neutrality.

The English government has limited its answer, to our exposures, taken from the archives of the Belgian War Office, referring to the Anglo-Belgian agreement of the year 1906, by remarking that Major-General Grierson, who had worked out the plan, has since died and Colonel Barnardiston is commanding the English troops at Kiau-Chou. It is quite possible that an "academical discussion" had taken place between the two English officers and the Belgian military authorities, as to what assistance the English army could give Belgium, in case its neutrality were violated by any one of its neighbours.

The Belgian government has explained, that it was only natural for the English military-attaché in Brussels, to question the head of the Belgian general-staff during the Algeciras-Crisis, as to the measures to prevent the neutrality of Belgium, which England had guaranteed, being violated. The head of the general-staff General Ducarme answered, that Belgium would be capable of resisting an attack from whatever side it should come. The Belgian government then proceeds to remark: "Has the conversation gone further than this and has Colonel Barnardiston submitted a plan which the British general-staff intended to follow in case this neutrality should be violated? We doubt it." While demanding an unabridged publication of the material, found in the Belgian secret maps, the Belgian government solemnly declares that it was never invited direct or indirectly to join the "Triple Entente" in case of a German-French war.

As can be seen from above explanations, the English government has from the first declined, to dispute the assertions made by the German government. It confined itself to trying to palliate them, as probably in face of the many and various proofs, a denial was considered to be to no purpose. Owing to the discovery, which has since been made of an Anglo-Belgian Military News-Service, as well as maps of Belgium, which were produced in English official sources, we have renewed proofs of the thoroughness of the military preparation devoted to the Anglo-Belgian plan.

We proceed to give the facsimile of the conversation, found in General Ducarme's report of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1906, to the Belgian minister of war, with which the Belgian government must have been acquainted, as the Belgian ambassador in Berlin Baron Greindl, refers clearly to its contents in his report, dated December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1911. Should it have escaped the Belgian government's memory however, all doubts can be set aside, regarding the subjects discussed by General Ducarme and Colonel Barnardiston, on reading the wording of the report which was preserved in the Belgian war-office—in a map the cover of which bore the title "Conventions anglo-belges."



The translation of General Ducarme's report is as follows:

"Letter to the Minister concerning the confidential conversation.

A Monsieur le Ministre de la Guerre!

Brussels, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1906.

Confidential.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour of sending you a short report of the conversations which I have had with Lieut. Col. Barnardiston and the object of my verbal communications. The first visit was about the middle of January. Mr. Barnardiston drew my attention to the fact, that owing to the general political out-look and the possibility of war breaking out, the English general-staff had cause for uneasiness.

A contingent of about 100,000 men could be provided in case Belgium were attacked. The Lieut. Colonel asked me how such a measure would be regarded by us. I answered him that from a military point of view, only favourably, but that as this question of Intervention was a matter which concerned the political authorities, it would be my duty to acquaint the Minister of War of it as soon as possible.

Mr. Barnardiston answered, that his ambassador in Brussels would talk over the matter with our Foreign Minister.

He then continued approximately, the English troops would be landed on the French coast, probably at Dunkirch and Calais, as quickly as possible. A landing in Antwerp would entail much more time, as larger transport ships would be required and on the other hand the risk would be greater. These points having been settled, some other items were gone into, for instance, railway transports, the requisitions which the English army could demand and the question of the head command of the United forces.

He asked me whether our dispositions would suffice to ensure the defence of the country, while the English troops were being transported, which in his estimation would take about 10 days.

I answered him, that places like Namur and Lüttich could not be taken by surprise and that our army of 100,000 men could be got ready for attack in 4 days.

When Mr. Barnardiston had expressed himself perfectly satisfied with my explanations, he repeated that:

1. our agreement was to be considered as absolutely confidential,
2. the agreement was not binding for his government,
3. his ambassador, the English general-staff, he and I were the only persons, who knew anything of the matter,
4. he could not say for certain whether the King's opinion on this matter had been asked or not.

During the course of a later conversation Lient.-Colonel Barnardiston assured me, that he had never received any confidential information regarding our army from other military attachés. He then gave the numerical Data as to the English forces; we could count on the fact, that in 12 or 13 days, 2 army corps, 4 cavalry brigades, and 2 brigades of mounted infantry could be landed.

He requested me to study the question of transporting these forces, to which-ever part of the country they would be most useful, and promised to give me a detailed list of the expeditionary forces.

He went back to the question of the actual strength of our field army and insisted that no detachments should be branched off for Namur and Lüttich, as these places had garrisons which were strong enough. He asked me to pay attention to the fact, of the necessity of allowing the English army to share in the privileges which the reglement provides for war-feats. At last he insisted on the question of the head-command.

I answered him that I could give no answer on this last mentioned point and promised him to look into the other questions carefully.

Later on the English military-attaché confirmed his former taxation: It would take at least 12 days to carry out the landing on the French coast. A much longer time would be necessary (1 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  months) to land 100,000 men in Antwerp.

On my interposing that it would be unnecessary to wait for the termination of the landing, to begin with the railway transports, and that it would be better to carry them out according to arrival on the coast, Mr. Barnardiston promised to give me exact data as to the number which could be landed each day.

As to the feats of war, Mr. Barnardiston was informed by me that this question could easily be arranged.

The further progress which the English general-staff's plan made, the clearer were the single items of the problem. The Colonel assured me that half the English army could be landed in a week, the rest by the end of 12 or 13 days, with the exception of the mounted infantry, which could only be sent later.

In spite of that, I felt myself obliged to insist on knowing exactly the numbers which could be landed each day, so as to be in a position to make arrangements for the railway transport daily.

The English military attaché conversed further with me about different other points:

1. The necessity of keeping all operations secret and to ensure the absolute secrecy of the Press.

2. Advantages which might be derived if each English general-staff was given a Belgian officer, each commander of troops an interpreter, and each unit of troops gendarmes, to assist the English police forces.



At another interview Col. Barnardiston and I, tested combined operations in case of the Germans attacking Antwerp and marching through our country, in order to reach the French Ardenne.

The Colonel expressed himself quite satisfied with the plan which I subjected to him, assuring me at the same time of General Grierson's consent, head of the English general-staff.

Other items of minor importance were likewise settled, especially with regard to special officers, gendarmes and interpreters, maps, pictures of the uniforms, proofs of special Belgian reglements, which were to be translated into English, rules regarding cost of customs for English transports, accommodation for the united armies' wounded, etc. Nothing was arranged as to the government or military authorities influencing the Press.

At my last interview with him, the English attaché informed me how the daily shipments in Boulogne, Calais and Cherbourg would be likely to proceed. The distance of last mentioned place, which has to be considered on account of technical necessity, entails a certain amount of delay. The I. Corps could be disembarked on the tenth day, the II. Corps on the fifteenth day. Our railways should be arranged so that the arrival of the first corps (whether in the direction Brüssel-Löwen or Namur-Dinant) could be counted on for the second day, and that of the second corps for the sixteenth day.

I pointed out, for the last time as energetically as I could, the great necessity of hurrying the transport of the expeditionary forces, so that the English troops could be with us between the eleventh and twelfth day. The best and most advantageous results were to be obtained by the mutual, simultaneous action of the united forces. But on the other hand it would mean serious failure, if this conjunction could not take place. Col. Barnardiston assured me that everything would be done to further this object.

In the course of our conversation I took the opportunity of assuring the English military attaché that we would endeavour as far as possible to hem the enemies' movements and not flee at once to Antwerp.

Lieut.-Col. Barnardiston told me that at the time he considered an intervention or help from Holland, highly improbable. He also informed me that his government intended to transfer the English commissariat from the French coast to Antwerp, as soon as the North Sea should be cleared of German ships.

At each interview the Colonel communicated to me any confidential information, which he had received concerning our Eastern neighbours. At the same time, he impressed on me how very important it is for Belgium, to get all the information it could as to what took place in the Rhine Province. I had to admit to him that with us, the foreign control in times of peace is not subject to the general-staff and that we had no military attachés at our Legations.



However, I took care not to admit to him, that I did not know whether the spy-service prescribed by our reglements was in order or not. But I consider it my duty to call attention to this matter here, as it puts us in a disadvantageous position with regard to our neighbours and possible enemies.

Major General, Head of the General-Staff,  
Signature.

Notice.

When I met General Grierson during the manœuvres in 1906, he assured me that re-organisation of the English army was conducive of the success—that not only the landing of 150,000 men was secured, but the activity of the army could be guaranteed in a shorter time than mentioned in above.

Concluded September 1906.

Signature.

The following margin note is to be found on the document: "L'entrée des Anglais en Belgique ne se ferait qu'après la violation de notre neutralité par l'Allemagne." The nature of this remark is explained by the sketch of an interview (found in the Belgian Foreign Office) between Col. Barnardiston's successor Lieut.-Col. Bridges with the Belgian chief of the general-staff, General Jungbluth. The document which is dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April and is probably from the year 1912 was compiled by Comte von der Straaten, Director in the Belgian Foreign Office with the remark "Confidential." We now give a translation of same.

"Confidential."

The English military attaché has expressed the wish of seeing General Jungbluth. The gentlemen met each other on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The Lieut.-Col. told the General, that England was in a position to send an army to the Continent, consisting of 6 infantry divisions, and 8 cavalry brigades—altogether 160,000 men. Besides this, England has taken all necessary precaution for defence. All is in readiness.

The English government would have sent us an expedition during recent events, even if we had not asked for help. The General remarked that our compliance would be necessary for this. The military attaché answered, he was aware of this, but, as we should not be able to prevent the Germans marching through our country, England would have landed troops in Belgium in any case.

As to the landing place, the military-attaché did not say anything, except that the coast line was rather long, but the General knew that Mr. Bridges, who spent the Easter holidays in Ostend, paid visits to Zeebrügge each day. The General added that we are able to prevent the Germans marching through Belgium.

Here we see clearly, that the English government intended in the event of a German-French war, to march into Belgium at once, thus violating Belgian neutrality and act exactly as Germany was driven to do beforehand, under which pretext England declared war on us. With unparalleled cynicism the English government took advantage of Germany's violation of Belgian neutrality to poison the whole world against us and place itself in the position of Protector of the smaller and weaker powers. As regards the Belgian government however, it should not only have repudiated the English insinuations with the utmost energy, but acquainted the powers noted in the London-Register of 1839, especially the German government, of the repeated attempts to made by England to entice it to violate its own neutrality. This the Belgian government failed to do.

It considered itself justified in making military preparations, in accordance with the English general staff against a pre-meditated German entry into Belgium. But it never made the slightest effort to take any measures in accordance with the German government or the competent military authorities in Germany against the possibility of a French-English entry, although the material we have found proves that it was acquainted with the existing intentions of the Entente Powers. The Belgian government had decided from the first, to join Germany's enemies and to make her cause, one with theirs.

As it is part of our enemies' slander system to deny inconvenient facts, the Imperial government has had a facsimile of above mentioned documents published and brought to the knowledge of the governments of neutral states.

*(Nordd. Allg. Zeitung, November 24, 1914.)*

Cover.

Convention  
anglo-belges



*Conférence*

Lettre à M<sup>r</sup> Leloir  
au sujet des entretiens confidentiels

Bruxelles, le 10 avril 1905

M<sup>r</sup> Leloir,

J'ai l'honneur de vous rendre compte sommairement des entretiens que j'ai eus avec le St. Rameur et qui ont fait l'objet de nos communications verbales.

La première partie de la mi-façon. M<sup>r</sup> Rameur a eu fait part des préoccupations de l'état-major de son pays relatives à la situation politique générale et aux éventualités de guerre du moment. Les corps de troupes, l'armée totale de 100.000 hommes environ, était projeté pour le cas où la Belgique serait attaquée.

Le St. Rameur demandait comment cette action serait négociée par nous, je lui répondis que, au point de vue militaire, elle ne paraissait pas être favorable, mais que cette question d'indépendance était également de nature politique et que, dès lors, il fallait tenir l'armée à l'écart de la guerre.

M<sup>r</sup> Rameur dit que son ministre à Bruxelles ne paraissait pas avoir l'impression des eff. etc.

Il continua dans ce sens : Le débat des <sup>anglais</sup> temps (le français) sur la côte de France, vers Dunkerque et Calais, de façon à tenir le plus possible le mouvement. Le débat par des moyens militaires beaucoup plus de temps, parce qu'il faudrait beaucoup de transports plus considérables et que la ligne d'arrêt n'est pas complète.

Ces adresses, il retourne à régler d'autres points, savoir : les transports par Ch. de fer, la question des réquisitions auxquelles l'armée anglaise pourrait avoir recours, la question des communications des forces alliées.

Il s'exprime si, pendant la traversée des transports, nous disposons d'un grand nombre de navires pour assurer la défense des ports, surtout la traversée des transports des troupes anglaises, qu'il insiste sur la nécessité de pourvoir.

Je répondis que les plans de traversée des troupes étaient à l'état d'étude. Pour ceux de nous, chaque, en 4 jours, notre armée de campagne, forte de 100.000 hommes, serait en état d'indépendance — ce qui est devenu complètement français.

A M<sup>r</sup> Leloir de la guerre

D'après les Anglais on a  
Belgique en ce point  
qu'après la victoire  
de notre armée  
l'armée anglaise



après avoir exprimé toute la satisfaction au sujet de ma détermination, le commandant, nous a dit qu'il ne pouvait pas le faire que : 1° notre convoi était alors absolument complet ; 2° il ne pouvait être son goût ; 3° il y avait trop de monde, 1.500 Anglais, les Russes étaient tous, en ce moment, dans la confusion ; 4° il craignait si son convoi avait été possible.

X  
Après une conférence très longue, le Lt. Barrow a dit qu'il n'avait jamais eu de conférences avec les Russes. Il a dit qu'il n'y avait pas de doute que, au 12 ou 13 juin, les forces anglaises, nous pourrions compter que, au 12 ou 13 juin, les forces anglaises : 2 corps d'armée, 4 brigades de cavalerie et 2 brigades d'infanterie.

Il me demandait l'opinion sur le transport de ces forces : est-ce le parti du pays où elles seraient utiles et, dans ce cas, il me posait la question de savoir si l'armée de débarquement.

Il terminait sur la question de savoir si l'armée de débarquement ou inversement pour qu'on ne fût pas de débarquement, de cette armée à travers et à l'ouest, pour que les places soient pourvues de garnisons suffisantes.

Il me demandait de faire une attention sur la nécessité de permettre à l'armée anglaise de bénéficier des avantages prévus par le Right sur les fortifications militaires. Enfin, il termina sur la question de commandement supérieure.

Je lui répondis que je ne pouvais rien répondre quant à ce dernier point, et je lui promis un examen attentif des autres questions.

X  
Plus tard, l'attaché militaire anglais me fit une conférence sur les conditions précédentes : 12 jours seraient au moins indispensables pour faire le débarquement sur la côte de France. Il faudrait beaucoup plus (1 à 2 1/2 mois) pour débarquer 100.000 hommes à Avon.

Sur mon objection qu'il était possible d'atténuer l'acheminement du débarquement pour commencer le transport par le chemin de fer et qu'il valait mieux le faire au fur et à mesure de l'arrivée à la côte, le Lt. Barrow m'a promis de tenir compte de ces idées dans l'état journalier du débarquement.

Après une conférence militaire, je fis part à mon interlocuteur que, bien que le Right fût en faveur du débarquement à la même époque, cette question serait prochainement réglée.

X  
A mesure que les études de l'état-major anglais avancent, les données du problème deviennent de plus en plus compliquées. Le Colonel a examiné l'état des forces anglaises pourvues de débarquement au 8 juin, et a vu que le débarquement à la fin du 12 ou 13 juin, sans l'infanterie de la ligne, ne pouvait compter que plus tard.

Néanmoins, je crois devoir insister à nouveau sur la nécessité de connaître le moment pour lequel, de façon à régler les transports, pour le fait de changer de point.

La Haye anglaise m'a restitué comme le bonhomme qu'on questionne, d'après :

1°) l'ordonnance de la loi de la Haye anglaise et de l'ordonnance de la Haye anglaise  
 2°) l'ordonnance de la loi de la Haye anglaise et de l'ordonnance de la Haye anglaise

3°) l'ordonnance de la loi de la Haye anglaise et de l'ordonnance de la Haye anglaise  
 4°) l'ordonnance de la loi de la Haye anglaise et de l'ordonnance de la Haye anglaise

Sur une autre colonne, le L.C. Barnardiston et moi examinâmes les  
 opérations combinées dans le cas d'une agression de la part de l'Allemagne.  
 nous comme objectif d'attaque et dans l'hypothèse d'une invasion  
 de notre pays pour atteindre les Andennes françaises.

Pour la suite le Colonel me communiqua son accord sur le plan que  
 lui avait présenté et m'assura de l'assentiment du G.C. et G.C. 2ème,  
 chef de l'Etat anglais.

D'autres questions secondaires furent également réglées, notamment  
 en ce qui concerne les off. militaires, les traducteurs, les guides,  
 les cartes, les albums des uniformes, les listes à part traduites en  
 anglais de certains capit. belges, etc. Le night des frais de voyage pour les  
 offic. anglais, l'hospitalisation des blessés de l'armée alliée, etc. Rien n'est  
 arrêté quant à l'union

que nous avons acceptée  
 sur la proposition  
 faite par l'anglais  
 et le L.C.

Dans les dernières conversations que j'ai eues avec l'anglais,  
 et une communication de l'ordonnance française de l'engagement à  
 Bruxelles, L.C. et l'anglais. L'engagement de ce dernier point,  
 n'importe pas des considérations d'ordre technique, et nous sommes  
 arrivés à un accord. Le L.C. avait demandé le 10<sup>e</sup> jour, et le 11<sup>e</sup> jour  
 le 15<sup>e</sup> jour.

Notre matériel des Ch. de fer s'achève, les transports, le  
 jour que l'arrivée, soit, vers Bruxelles, soit vers Namur, ou vers  
 du L.C. 2ème, le 11<sup>e</sup> jour, et du L.C. 2ème, le 15<sup>e</sup> jour.

J'ai invité mes hommes à faire et aussi à faire que je le pourrai  
 sur la nécessité de faire venir les transports. Je pense que les  
 transports anglais sont prêts de venir entre le 11<sup>e</sup> et le 15<sup>e</sup> jour. Les  
 résultats les plus heureux, les plus favorables peuvent être obtenus  
 par une action coordonnée et simultanée des forces alliées. Les  
 transports, et donc les échecs graves si est accord ne se produira pas.  
 Le L.C. Barnardiston m'a assuré que tout avait été fait dans ce but.

X

Des copies de nos instructions, sous l'assentiment de l'anglais  
 sur la nécessité de faire venir les transports. Je pense que les  
 transports anglais sont prêts de venir entre le 11<sup>e</sup> et le 15<sup>e</sup> jour. Les  
 résultats les plus heureux, les plus favorables peuvent être obtenus  
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Sur une autre colonne, le L.C. Barnardiston et moi examinâmes les  
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 nous comme objectif d'attaque et dans l'hypothèse d'une invasion  
 de notre pays pour atteindre les Andennes françaises.



Dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April, probably 1912.

*Confidentielle*

L'Attaché militaire anglais a demandé à voir le Général Jungbluth. Ces Messieurs se sont rencontrés le 23 avril.

Le Lieutenant Colonel Bridges a dit au Général que l'Angleterre disposait d'une armée pouvant être envoyée sur le continent, composée de six divisions d'infanterie et de huit brigades de cavalerie - en tout 160.000 hommes. Elle a aussi tout ce qu'il lui faut pour défendre son territoire insulaire. Tout est prêt.

Le Gouvernement britannique, lors des derniers événements, aurait débarqué immédiatement chez nous, même si nous n'avions pas demandé de secours.

Le Général a objecté qu'il faudrait pour cela notre consentement.

L'Attaché militaire a répondu qu'il le savait, mais que comme nous n'étions pas à même d'empêcher les Allemands de passer chez nous, l'Angleterre aurait débarqué ses troupes en Belgique en tout état de cause.

Quant au lieu de débarquement, l'Attaché militaire n'a pas précisé; il a dit que la côte était assez longue, mais le Général sait que M. Bridges a fait, d'ordinaire, des visites journalières à Zeebrugge pendant les fêtes de Pâques.

Le Général a ajouté que nous étions, <sup>d'ailleurs,</sup> parfaitement à même d'empêcher les Allemands de passer.



Baron Greindl, who for several years acted as Belgian ambassador in Berlin, sent a report to the Belgian Foreign Minister on 23rd December 1911, from which at the time extracts were published. On account of its extent, only part of the first page has been given in facsimile. This document, also discovered in Brussels, is only a copy of the original report. The official character of same however can be gathered from the print of the paper used for the copy.

SECTION

N<sup>o</sup>

ANNEXE

Réponse au N<sup>o</sup>

Dien Gle

du

Légation de Belgique.

N<sup>o</sup> 3022/1911

Copie.

Berlin, le 23 Décembre 1911

Très confidentielle.

J'envoie la Belgique en cas de guerre.

Monsieur le Ministre.

J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir la dépêche du 27 novembre.  
Monsieur, P. sans nuances de doute, n<sup>o</sup> 3022/1911.

## “The Belgian Neutrality.”

The “Nordd. Allg. Ztg.” gives the following examples, which witnesses have given on oath, in German Law Courts:

### *Amtsgericht Quedlinburg, 28<sup>th</sup> September:*

My master in Charleroi was a member of the Belgian “Garde civique.” One or two weeks before the war broke out, he said 10 French regiments were coming to assist the Belgians against Germany. Belgium would not attack Germany, but had to defend its own frontiers. I noticed French infantry troops to the strength of 100—200 men too, in Charleroi one or two weeks before the war broke out. They were in marching order, equipped with knapsacks and rifles. I could not have mistaken them for Belgian soldiers, as I know the latter uniform quite well. The men had red trousers, blue coats and the “Casquet,” the officers with gold braid on theirs.

### *Amtsgericht Düsseldorf, 4<sup>th</sup> November:*

The mobilisation order was carried out in Jeumont, in the night 31<sup>st</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August. But, on 31<sup>st</sup> July I saw 2 French officers fully equipped in Erquelinnes. They wore red trousers.

### *Amtsgericht Berlin, 5<sup>th</sup> November:*

Several days before 1<sup>st</sup> August, I saw French infantry patrols on both sides of the canal, which flows past the Boring Tower. The workmen frequently spoke of having seen French soldiers. Furthermore on the same day. I saw a fairly large number of French military, standing on Belgian ground on the way to Quievrain, which apparently had sent out the patrols. I only saw them from a distance, but I should say there were about as many as in a “company.” I spoke to some Belgians in the Inn about the presence of French soldiers—but could get no explanation for it—all I could gather was “it is a command.”

### *Amtsgericht Düsseldorf, 5<sup>th</sup> November:*

In the month of June several senior French officers stayed at the Hotel Metropol in Brussels, going in the direction of the ministries (government offices) every morning in motors. I cannot have been mistaken, as I know the French army well and other people noticed the officers as well.

*Amtsgericht Prüm, 6<sup>th</sup> November:*

From the 26<sup>th</sup> July till 4<sup>th</sup> August I have seen French officers motoring through Ougrée in French uniform. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August a French airman flew over Ougrée and back. We recognized the aeroplane as we knew the marks, since the Aeroplane Exhibition in Ans near Lüttich in the year 1913.

*Amtsgericht Cöln, 7<sup>th</sup> November:*

Since the Morocco affair, i. e. 1911, French soldiers were constantly to be seen in Belgium and it was remarkable that the officers, as well as men went about the streets fully armed, whereas the Dutch military always came over without side arms (sword etc.). At the manœuvres as well as at ordinary shooting practice, I noticed that the officers and men took part. In this way I saw how French artillery soldiers gave instruction to the Belgians as to the working of the guns. The officers took part in the critics. The French officers mostly took advantage of the various Expositions in Belgium, (which according to my opinion were got up for the purpose) to account for their presence there. Of late years the Flemish soldiers were drilled with French commands, instead of Flemish as hitherto, although many of them did not understand French, which led to many a discord.

*Amtsgericht Gelsenkirchen, 7<sup>th</sup> November:*

I can say with certainty, that I saw French soldiers in the streets of Charleroi several days before 1<sup>st</sup> August 1914. Altogether about 12 to 15 men. They were fully equipped and I noticed particularly they carried guns. They patrolled the streets with the Belgian soldiers. I know for certain that these soldiers were French, and not Belgian. I know the difference between Belgian and French military, because I spent a long time in France. The French soldiers, I remember distinctly, wore red trousers. Whether there were officers among them or not, I cannot remember.

## German Return-Measures against Hostile Countries.

### I. Violation of German Economic Interests.

1. At the beginning of the war, England, France, and Russia issued Moratoriums, which were carried out with particular severity towards Germans. Thereupon the Bundesrat issued a so-called Counter-Moratorium (Bundesrats-order regarding the value of claims of people resident abroad, dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 360—and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 449) prolonging the maturity of bills drawn up abroad, dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 1914 (Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 368—regarding foreign bills—12<sup>th</sup> August 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 369—and the maturity of bills drawn up abroad dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 448.)

2. The British government subjected all branches of German Banks in London, to a special control, so as to compel them to close up their affairs, and other German enterprises were forced to be discontinued. In France all German enterprises are under compulsory administration. In face of these facts the Bundesrat ordered all enterprises in Germany, belonging to hostile speculators to be placed under official control. (Bundesrat-measures regarding control of foreign enterprises dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 397—and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 447.) Meanwhile further measures are pending.

3. As England by a proclamation, dating 9<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and France by an order of 30<sup>th</sup> September 1914, forbade, under severe penalty, all trading of above countries to or from Germany—the Bundesrat decided to prohibit payments, as far as England and France or their Colonies were concerned—all other contracts, which had been entered on, with these countries were temporarily postponed. (Bundesrats-order regarding prohibition of payment against England, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 421—and against France dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 1914—Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 443.)

4. The French government issued a proclamation 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914, that all German goods on French territory, whether import, or in transit, which had not yet reached a free zone, were to be held up and sold for the good of the state. According to reports of German firms, the English customs took the same measures. As a counter-measure the Bundesrat issued a decree, wherein all French and British goods in Germany, at present in the hands of the customs, are to be held up temporarily, and if necessary, as a counter-measure sold to the advantage of the empire. (Bundesrats-order regarding the treatment of hostile goods in bond, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1914 Reichs-Gesetzbl. page 438.)

5. The same measures, as mentioned in paragraphs 2—4 have, according to private information, been taken by Russia, up to the present, however it has not been officially proved. Should these reports turn out to be true, then corresponding measures will be taken towards Russia.



## II. Violation of International Law in Treatment of the Germans.

1. The English, French, and Russian governments, at first refused almost all Germans, who happened to be in the respective countries, permission to travel when the war broke out. The nationals of the above mentioned countries, who happened to be in Germany, were consequently treated in the same manner. In the meantime the above mentioned powers have expressed their willingness to allow German women and males, not capable of military service, to leave the countries, but to retain all able-bodied males (*Wehrfähigen*); consequently all nationals of Russia, France, and England in the corresponding age-limit have been refused permission to travel.

2. The Germans, who have been kept back in England and France, were at first arrested in large numbers, later on however, almost without exception, and treated as prisoners of war, while in Germany, up to this, only "suspected subjects" of hostile countries were arrested. Now the English men in Germany, fit for military service, have shared the same Fate, as the British government failed to comply with the request of releasing the Germans within a stated time.

The French government has also been requested to give an explanation of the treatment afforded by it, to Germans fit for military service (*Wehrfähigen*). The treatment of the French in Germany will be regulated, according to the answer received. The able-bodied (*wehrfähigen*) Germans in Russia, have for the most part been sent to the Eastern Governments, but are reported to be in freedom there—the treatment of the Russians in Germany will likewise depend on the information received on this point.

3. According to reliable information, the Germans in hostile countries are treated partly with justice, but partly with quite unnecessary severity, in fact, discredibly. In accordance with the German government's request, the diplomatic and consular agents of America, who have undertaken to look after German interests in hostile countries, have been entrusted to examine these evils, and if necessary, to use strong pressure in having them remedied. If this measure does not achieve its object, the hostile foreigners in Germany must only be subjected to more severe treatment. It must be understood, that we do not want to enter into a competition of brutality towards hostile nationals, but Germany would wait its time for calling the hostile governments and their agents to account, for the treatment shown to our kinsmen.

*(Nordd. Allg. Zeitung, November 9, 1914.)*

## German Mines in the North Sea.

### *The German Government's Reply.*

The German government sent the following reply to the neutral powers in answer to the British government's protest against the laying of German mines in the North Sea.

The German government has learned, that the British government, addressed a note to the neutral states, dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1914—containing a protest against the laying of German sea-mines. Among other items is mentioned, that the mines have been laid in violation of international law. in unpermitted places, insufficiently anchored and controlled, and not correctly, i. e. with sufficient care reported to the neutrals. Reference is also made to the explanatory answer given by the first German delegate, at the second Hague-Conference, and to the voluntary damage to neutral trade, which will be the consequence of the German action on the open sea. The German government sent following reply to this protest.

#### I.

In condemning the German proceeding, the British government takes its basis from the 8<sup>th</sup> Hague agreement, 18<sup>th</sup> October 1907, regarding the laying of sub-marine selfworking contact-mines. At the same time it overlooks the fact, that according to Article 7, in said agreement, the stipulation between the powers only comes into force, when all the states engaged in war, have signed the agreement. England's Ally Russia, however, did not join the compact; consequently the rules of international law do not come into force, for any of the parties engaged in the present war. Nevertheless the German government, of its own accord offered to act according to the international regulations, with the exception of Article 2, regarding which Germany, as well as France has reserved a right of action.

The German government energetically repudiates, the British government's assertion that these regulations have been violated by the Germans.

#### II.

1. The British government finds a violation of the rules of international law, in the supposition that German sea-mines have been laid by fishing smacks, even that the said boats have been sailing under neutral flags. This statement is not only incorrect, but has no foundation whatever, as the German sea-mines have all been laid by German war-ships.

2. The British government complains, that German mines have been laid as far as 50 miles off the English coast and not only in British, but neutral waters. The distance from the coast and hostile harbours, at which mines can be anchored, is not regulated in the agreement, nor ever been practised in international law, and the

distance of the German mines from the coast has been greatly exaggerated in the English report, rather, the mines have been laid as near the coast as the anchorage and coast circumstances allowed. The assertion that neutral waters have been blocked, is untrue. Not one German mine has been laid at the entrance of any neutral harbour.

3. The British protest further states, that in several cases German mines have been found floating, before having exploded. The mines laid by the Germans have been anchored with all possible care. But if some have come afloat, owing to currents or storms, these are not so numerous as the floating English mines, which have been driven towards the Belgian and Dutch coasts, causing an amount of damage there.

4. The duty of controlling the mines, which omission is censured by the British government, is naturally only applicable to the war-faring party, as long as it is in command of the war-zone, in which it has laid mines according to international law.

This as a rule, applies to "defensive" but not "offensive" mines. As far as the latter are concerned, if they have been carefully laid, and reported by the war-waging state—all further responsibility must be left to Fate.

5. The British protest further charges the German government of not having given any report, as to where the mines were laid. This charge can be disproved by facts. On 7<sup>th</sup> August 1914 the German government sent a communication to all neutral powers, indicating that the entrances to the English harbours would be blocked by mines. In this way the neutral shipping was acquainted of the fact, that mines had been laid and where it might expect them.

If the German government did not report the exact location of several mines—this can well be understood from the circumstances under which they had been laid—.

### III.

The storm of words and indignation, with which the British protest, denounces the German government to the neutral states, is in no way justified. This protest is obviously only a means of covering the violations committed by the English, against the rules laid down by the London Naval Convention, and to prepare public opinion for the closing of the North Sea, which is really the same as blockading neutral coasts. In face of these facts it strikes one as remarkable, when the British government takes the position for itself of "Protector of the standing and general basis, of the freedom of the sea for peaceful trade". Peaceful trading is obviously for war-faring England, only such trade as carries goods to England, but not any, that could or would carry goods to her opponents.

The German government is convinced that the continued pressure brought into force against neutral trade by England will show up her protest in its true colour. On the other hand, it (the German government) is convinced that it has acted as far as possible according to the rules laid down for naval warfare between civilised countries and done as little damage as was possible, compatible with military operations, to neutral trade or vessels. This influence of neutral interests by England is in no way justified, as it has nothing whatever to do with military operations, its object being, to harm the enemy's political economy, by laming legitimate neutral trade. This disregard of the far-famed freedom of the sea, deprives the British government of any right to sit in judgment, as to the question of laying mines, which have done the neutrals far less harm.

Berlin, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

## Official Belgian Espionage before the War.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" brings the facsimile of a formular stamped with the seal of the English Embassy in Brussels, containing the following text:

E. M. de l'ARMÉE ANGLAISE.

Je soussigné DALE LONG attaché à l'E. M. réquisitionne . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

A le 1914.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" remarks: A whole package of the above formulars has been found in the bureau of the English Spy-Central in Brussels. It was known long before the war that a certain Dale Long lived in Brussels, as a spy against Germany in English service. A certain number of his agents were brought before the judge, but it could not be proved with certainty that Dale Long was attached to the English general staff. The above mentioned papers are a proof that Dale Long was to belong to the English general staff in case of war, and as a member of the English army in Belgium, he had the right to furnish requisitions, and that this authority was vouched by the English Embassy in Brussels as the stamp proved. Heaps of these unfilled formulars, which were found, prove clearly that it is a question of mobilisation measures, which could not have taken place without the consent of the Belgian Government.



# W a r J o u r n a l

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## 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The Turkish armoured cruiser "Sultan Semlin" sinks a Russian ship laden with 300 sea mines, a coal transport ship and damages a Russian canon boat: Sewastepool is afterwards shelled with success.

The cruiser "Midilli" sinks 14 steamers and shells Narusky. Several other steamers are sunk and Theodisia shelled.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The English cruiser "Hermes" is sunk in the English channel by a German sub-marine.

The general storm on Tsingtau fails.

The Polder district in the North West of Belgium is flooded by destroying the locks near Nieuport; further movements are impossible on both sides owing to the flooded district.

The English and French Ambassadors leave Constantinopol.

The Turkish canon boat "Burck Reisz" and the steamer "Kinali Aga" are sunk by their respective captains to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

The first Turko-Russian frontier fights in the Caucasus.

The German chief of the general staff Lt. General v. Moltke goes to Hamburg on account of his health.

In the West 2,300 English and 1,000 French taken prisoners.

## 4<sup>th</sup> November.

An English-French squadron shells the Dardanelles without success.

A new English war-loan of 4 milliarden marks is announced.

England declares the North Sea as war territory bringing pressure on the neutrals and frees itself from the London declaration.

## 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The German cruiser "York" is destroyed by a German sea-mine in the fog and sinks. Half the crew is saved.

The English sub-marine "D 5" sunk by a German mine.

A German cruiser squadron is seen near Yarmouth on the English coast, it shells former and returns safely in spite of the English mines in the North Sea. Terrific excitement in London.

The Austrians report 3,000 Russians prisoners.

Reims shelled again.

Bulgaria wishes to remain neutral in spite of the Turkish war.

### 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Cyprus annexed by England.

The English, fit for military service in Germany are interned as retaliation. The tension between China and Japan increases.

The Austrians report 1,500 Russians taken prisoners.

Portugal shows, that it wishes to free itself from English directory.

Our cruiser squadron off Chile, destroys the English cruisers "Good Hope" and "Monmouth"; an English cruiser is damaged to a neutral harbour.

From the West we have good reports of continued progress.

The Germans made a raid from Tsing-tau.

450,000 prisoners are reported to be in our hands according to an official notification.

### 7<sup>th</sup> November.

The relations between Persia and Russia constrained.

1,000 French prisoners taken at Ypres.

Three Russian Cavalry divisions defeated.

Two squadrons of Cape-rifles, a company of flying artillery are taken by the Germans at Zandfontain.

The English failed, trying to land at Akaba.

Tsing-tau falls after heroic resistance.

### 8<sup>th</sup> November.

At the conquest of Tsing-tau the first fort to fall was Fort "Moltke", then Fort "Ilitis", at last Fort "Bismarck".

The Japanese allowed the governor von Meyer-Waldeck to send a telegram to the Kaiser. 2,300 Germans were made prisoners.

The "Kaiserin Elisabeth" sunk off Tsing-tau.

1,500 Servians taken prisoner at Krupanj.

### 9<sup>th</sup> November.

The Turks crossed the Egyptian frontier.

The important height, Vienne le Château in the Argonne, captured.

Sewastepool shelled again.

The Russians beaten at Lake Wysytyer, 4,000 prisoners, 10 machine guns captured.

The Russian army in the Caucasus beaten.

Exportation and importation in England decrease in October about Mark 400,000,000 each.

### 10<sup>th</sup> November.

A Servian army of 120,000 men driven back.

An Austrian war-loan announced.

### 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The "Emden" driven on to the rocks at Cocos Island, in the Indian Ocean and burnt, the "Königsberg" bottled up in the Rufigi river, opposite Mafia Island. Captain von Müller saved. 200 dead.

St. Eloi and Dixmuiden stormed. 3,000 French taken prisoners.

French attacks in the Argonne and near Verdun repulsed with great losses for the enemy.

The Russians driven back at Czernowitz.

China orders general mobilisation.

Dewet defeats Cronje, Dewet's Son falls.

### 12<sup>th</sup> November.

The English Cannon-boat "Niger" destroyed off Dover by a German sub-marine.

Progress at Ypres, 700 prisoners and 4 guns taken.

Russian cavalry driven back at Kalisch.

21 guns taken from the Servians.

### 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Progress at Ypres. The enemy suffers severe losses at Nieuport. 1,100 French taken prisoners.

The Boer commander Jooste joins the insurrection.

The Sultan proclaims the "Holy War" for all Mussulmen in the enemy's countries.

### 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Slow progress in the battle of the North Sea. 850 French taken prisoners.

A Russian Armeecorps defeated at Wloclawek. 1,500 prisoners and 12 machine guns captured.

We have news from Egypt of discontent among the inhabitants.

The Russians beaten by the Turks at Köpriköi, 4,000 dead, the same number of wounded, 10,000 guns and plenty of ammunition and war provisions captured.

The English try to palliate the Boers by promising them concessions so as to prevent treachery.

"Good Hope" and "Monmouth" officially announced lost.

Asquith informs the House of Commons that the English losses at the French theatre of war up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October amount to about 57,000 men.

An official statement that the English government will demand a further credit of 4½ Milliarden Mark besides the 3,6 Milliarden, which had been granted for the war.

### 15<sup>th</sup> November.

The Yser-canal crossed at 5 points by the Germans.

The German Ambassador in New-York lays a protest against the supplying of arms and ammunition to the allies.

The troops in Przemyśl make a successful sortie.

The Turks push forward in the Caucasus.

### 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Valjevo and Obrenovac taken; 8,000 Servians, 42 guns, and 31 machine guns captured.

The Russians are forced back to the West of Warsaw towards Plock and Kutno and have lost in the fighting since 14<sup>th</sup> November 28,000 prisoners, 80 machine guns, and many field guns. The Governor of Warsaw, v. Kerff, with his staff taken prisoner.

The "Holy-War" proclaimed against countries hostile to Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Lord Roberts dies at the French seat of war of inflammation of the lungs.

An important position in the Argonne taken.

### 17<sup>th</sup> November.

The Austro-Hungarian troops push forward before Cracow and drive the Russians back.

A new demand of 5 Milliards is announced to the Reichstag.

### 18<sup>th</sup> November.

England announces a war-loan of 10 Milliards Marks.

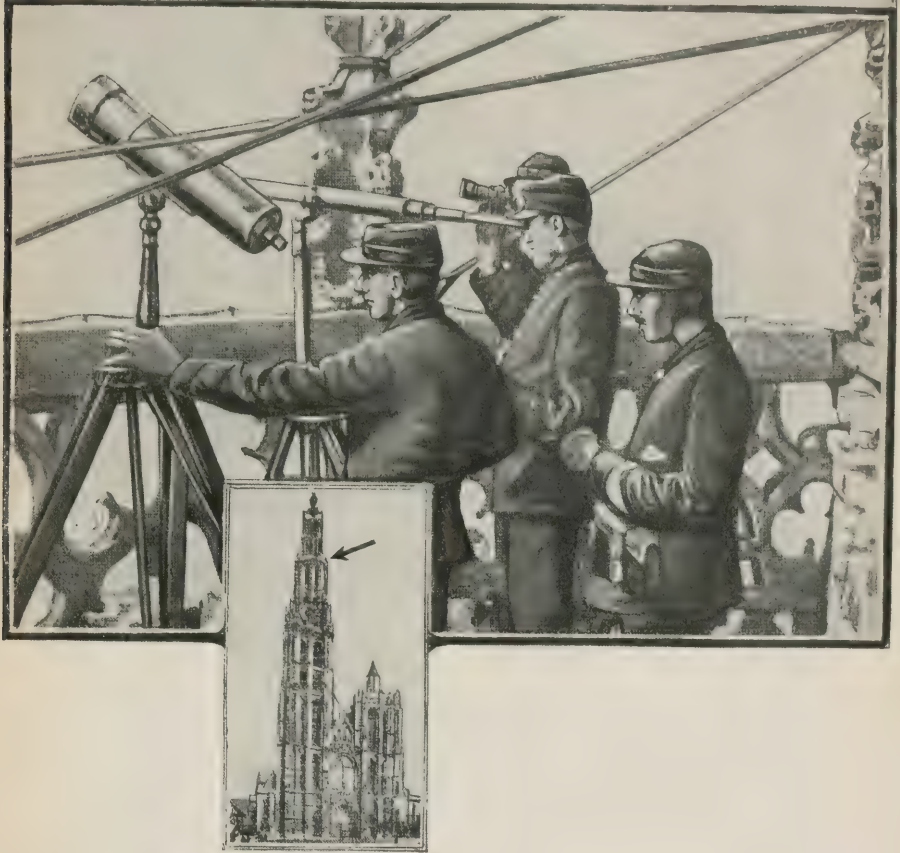
Reims again heavily shelled.

### 19<sup>th</sup> November.

The English transports of troops across the channel are stopped from fear of the German sub-marines.



IN THE BELTRY OF ANTWERP CATHEDRAL.  
Showing Belgian military using the cathedral as a post for observation.



### How the Belgians endangered their Churches.

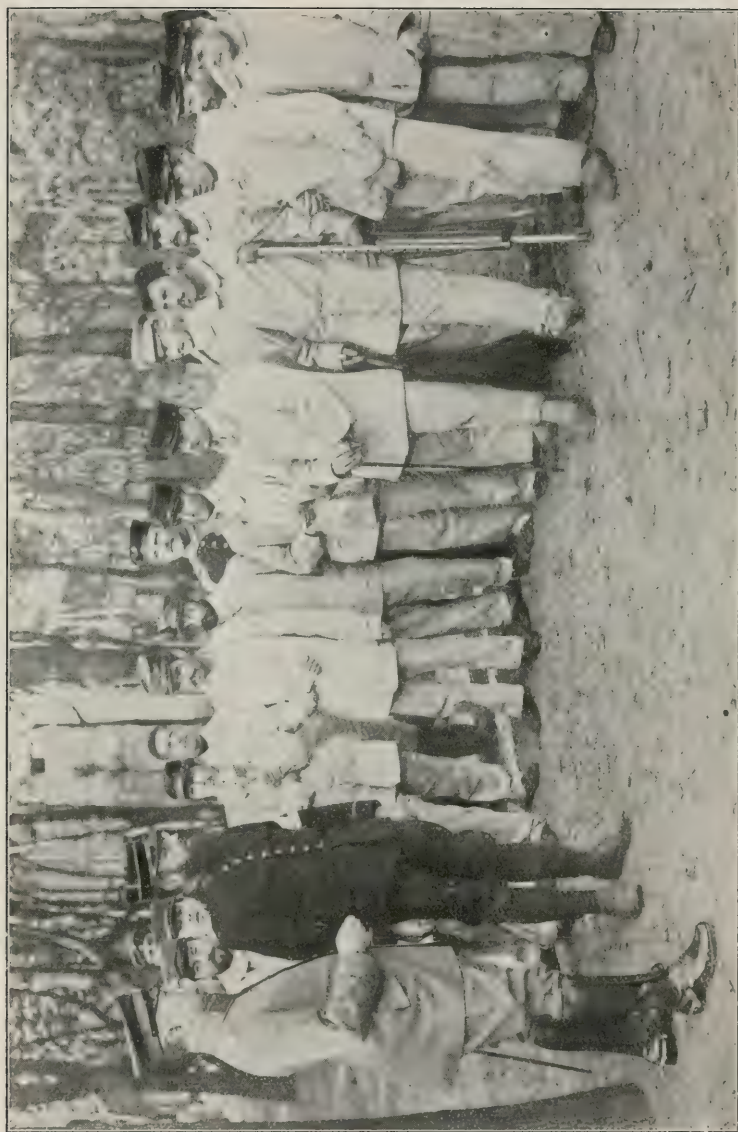
Authentic photograph, taken by an American war correspondent showing Belgian military using the Cathedral Tower as a post for observation. This is probably the first irrefutable proof of the use of church monuments for military purposes by the allies. (Published in the New York Tribune, 22nd October.)



German Sailors before the Brabo Fountain in Antwerp.



Old Patrician houses in Gent, which remained intact as the inhabitants of the town did not offer any resistance to the German troops.



A French army doctor, who has been taken prisoner, pays visits to the wounded  
with the German medical doctor.



Paderborn (Westphalie) Hôpital St Vincent  
Le 4 Octobre 1914

Monsieur le Président du Conseil des Ministres

Bordeaux - France

Monsieur le Président

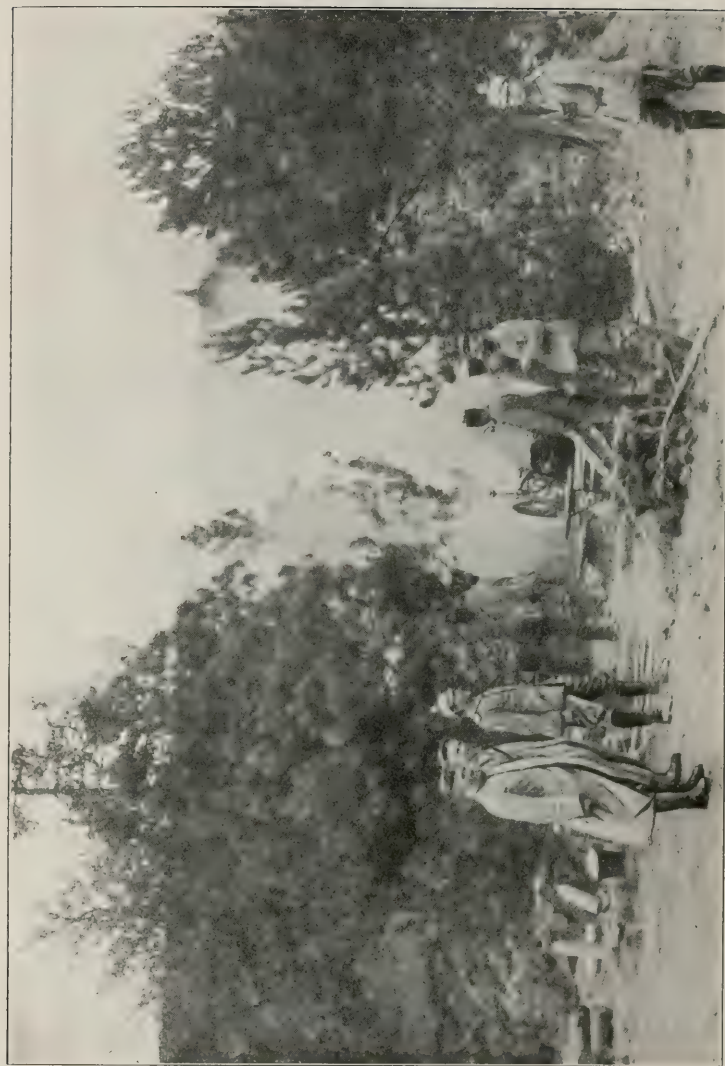
En présence de l'accueil si sympathique que les  
alliés français reçoivent à l'Hôpital St Vincent de Paderborn  
(Westphalie), nous nous faisons un devoir de vous signaler  
l'empressement si louable avec lequel le personnel médical et  
hospitalier s'occupe d'améliorer notre sort et nous sommes  
fiers de vous affirmer que nous avons trouvé en  
cet établissement les soins les plus complets et les plus  
dévoués - les mêmes que ceux donnés à nos camarades  
allemands.

Nous n'ignorons pas que dès le début des  
hostilités vous avez donné des instructions pour qu'une





German medical corps soldiers taken prisoner by French and Belgian troops, which is considered as in violation of international law.

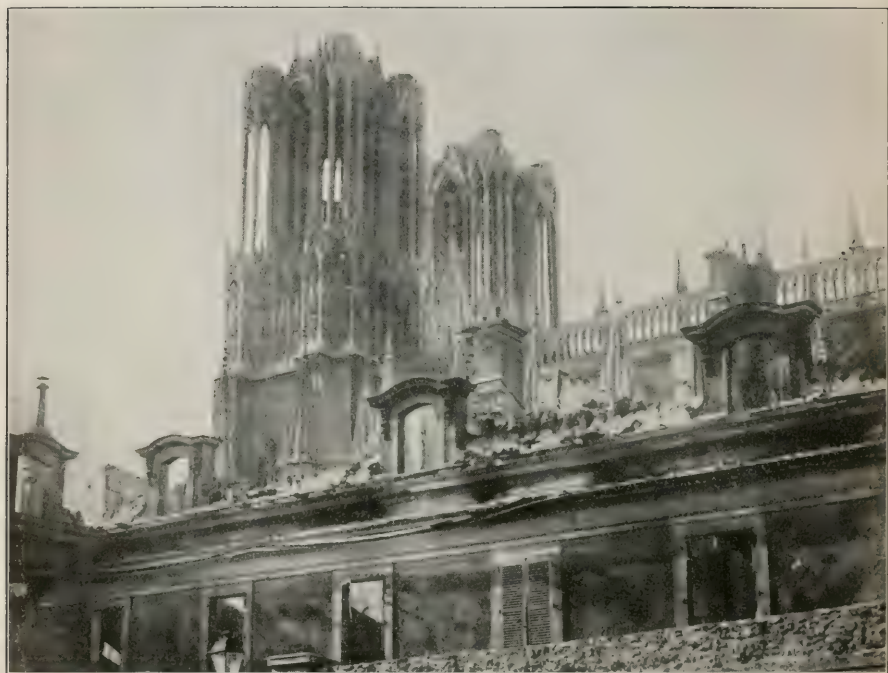


Firing off a heavy howitzer, from a covered position in the Dunes  
on the Belgian North Sea coast.





Exploding 42-cm shell at the bombing of Antwerp.

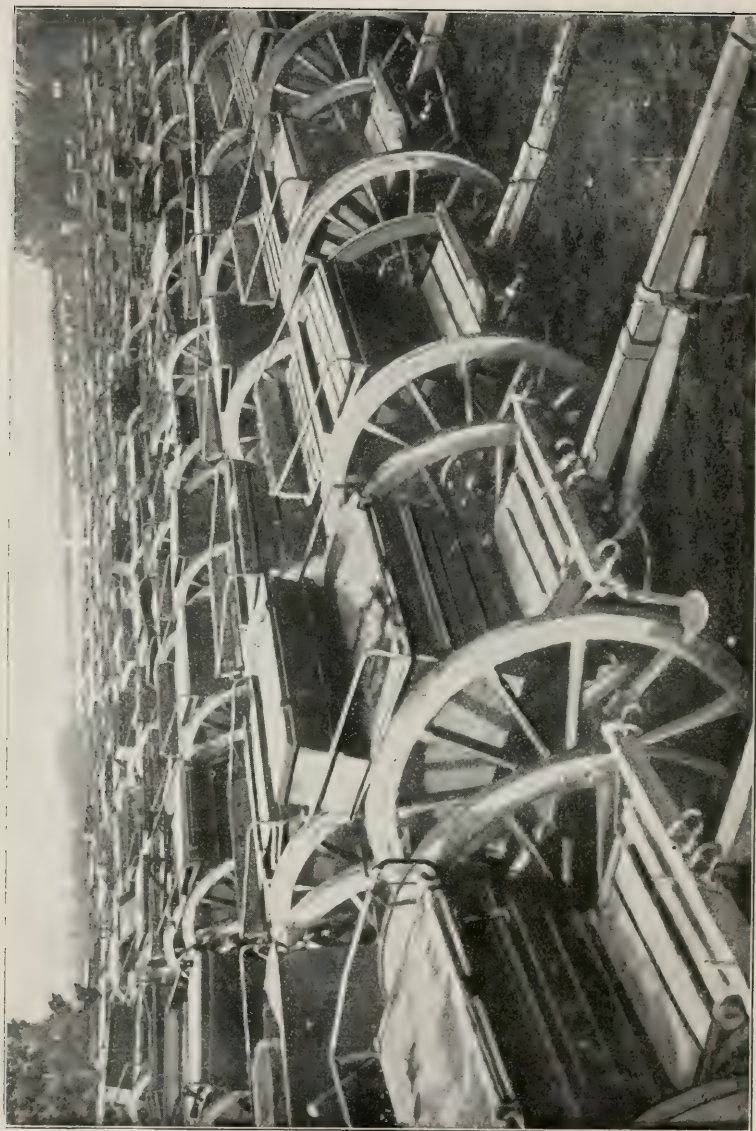


**The Cathedral of Reims after being shelled.**

We see from the picture that the Cathedral has not suffered much. The French had placed an observation post on the Cathedral Tower with their artillery near the church.



German troops distributing food to the poor population  
in the North of France.

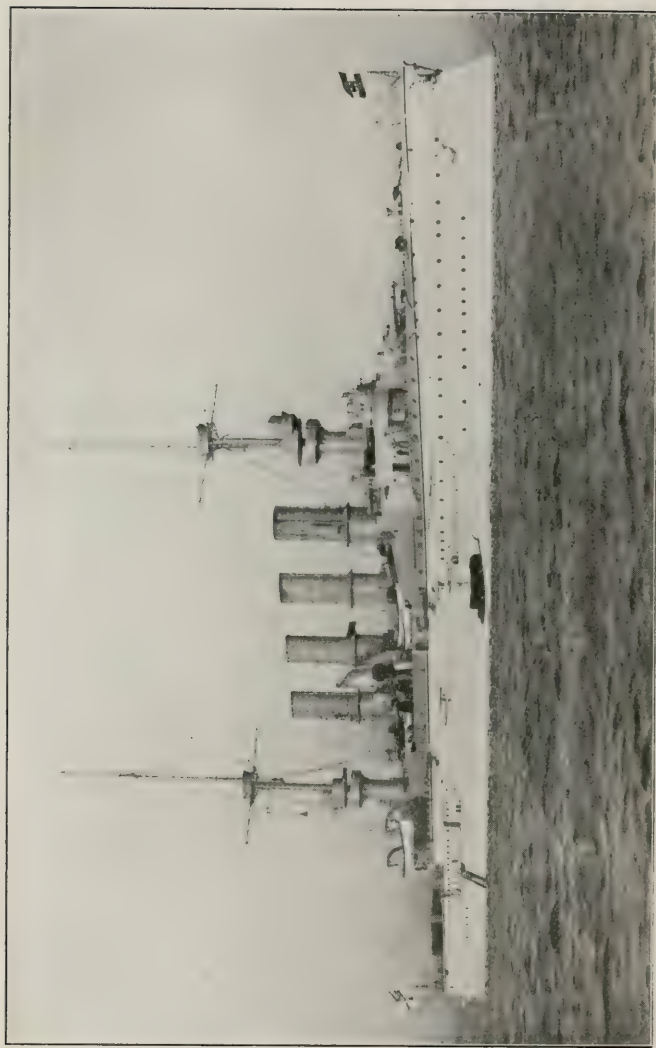


Captured Russian Ammunition after the battle of Tannenberg.

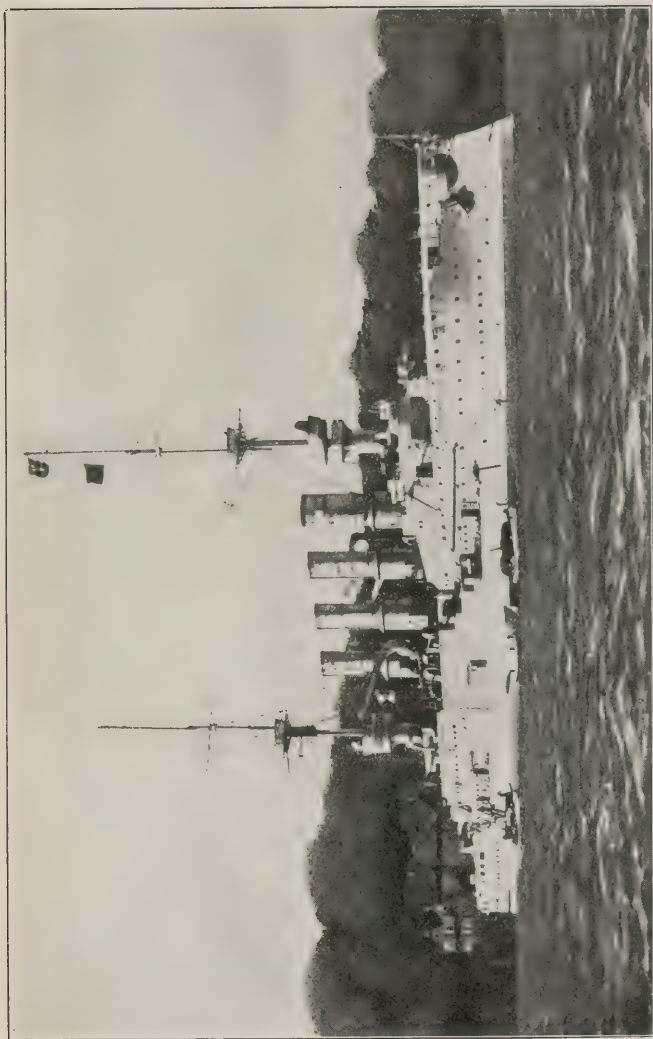




The Cruiser "Emden" sinks an English trading ship, in the Indian Ocean near Bombay. Up to 20<sup>th</sup> October, the Emden had destroyed more than 20 English ships, in all about 92,955 tons. Owing to the Emden's activity, shipping to India has suffered enormous losses. Tourist traffic to India and English cotton import have almost ceased and caused great uneasiness in India.

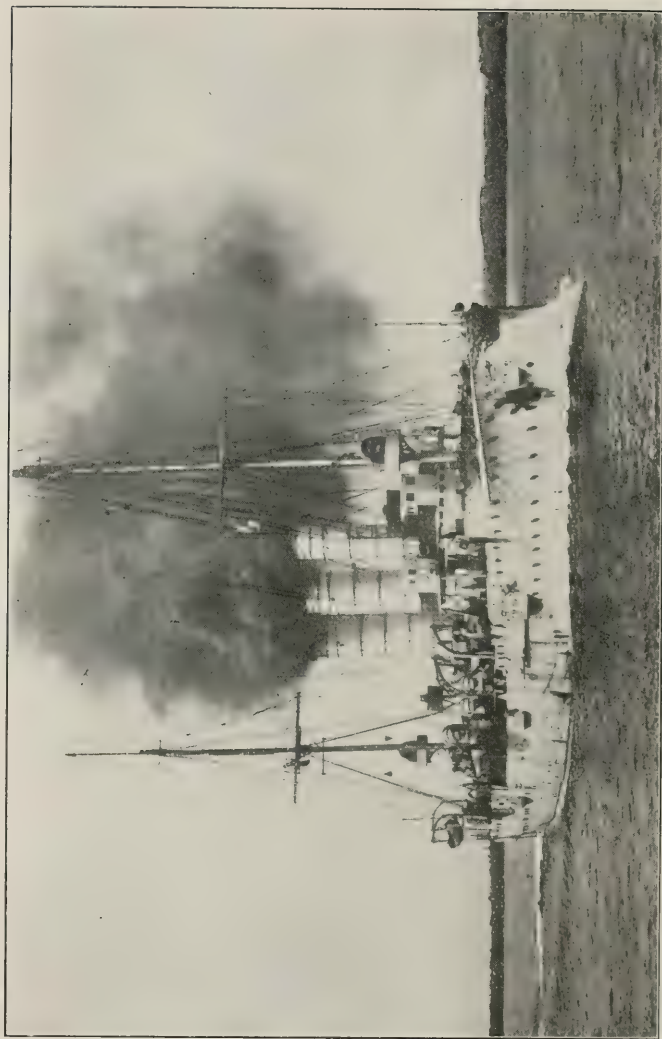


S. M. Armoured Cruiser "Scharnhorst."



S. M. Armoured Cruiser "Gneisenau," which belongs to the East-Asia fleet and in conjunction with the German Cruiser "Scharnhorst" had a successful encounter with an English fleet.

Two large English ships are said to have been badly damaged.



S. M. Small Cruiser "Leipzig" which worried English and Japanese shipping  
in the Pacific Ocean with great success.



The harbour of Libau blocked by the German Baltic Fleet, by sinking steamers; the town shelled.

The Russian Black-Sea fleet flees to Sewastepool; one battleship badly damaged.

An English torpedo-boat destroyed by a mine off the Scotch coast.

The German cruiser "Berlin" disarmed in Drontheim.

### 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The Austrians take 7,000 prisoners in Poland.

The Turks push forward as far as Kalaat-Bu-Nachl, half the way to Akaba-Suez.

The Russians thrown back, towards Batum in the Caucasus.

The North American State Department undertakes to act for the four neutral powers, in an intervention regarding the closing of the North Sea by the English.

The losses of the English troops up to this, are estimated at 80,000 men (English source).

The Turks block Schatt-el-Arab.

The Russians forced back again before Przemyśl.

The attack on Reims gains 6 kilometres.

The Bulgarian minister of war brings a law, which enables him to increase the troops by 100,000.

### 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Two English airmen make an unsuccessful attempt to destroy the "Zeppelin-shed" at the works in Friedrichshafen, by throwing bombs.

Two Russian battalions captured at Czenstochau.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

The health of our troops officially ascertained.

The Turks arrive at the Suez canal.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Progress made in the Argonne.

English airmen make an unsuccessful attempt on Friedrichshafen.

Peace manifestations suppressed in Paris.

### 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Successful sortie from Przemyśl.

A "hunger-riot" among the German interned prisoners (civilians) in the Isle of Man. Four persons killed.

The French defeated in Morocco.

The battle ship "Audacious" sunk of the North coast of Ireland.  
 "U 18" sunk, the crew saved.

### 25<sup>th</sup> November.

The sentence passed on German Doctors, on account off "Stealing" excites comment, even in the Paris Press.

The total number of prisoners in Austria-Hungary amounts to 110,000 men.

The English send territorial troops to India.

Portugal declares it will join the war-waging countries "when the time comes."

### 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Mackensen defeats the Russians at Lodz. 40,000 prisoners, 70 guns, 156 machine-guns, 160 ammunition cars captured. Besides 30 heavy guns were injured.

Japan cedes the conquered German South Sea Islands to Australia.

The Austrians made 29,000 prisoners in the new battle in Poland.

### 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The battle ship "Bulwark" with about 800 men sunk.

2 1/2 Milliarden (Kronen) subscribed up to this, for the Austro-Hungarian war-loan.

The Germans shell Soissons again.

The centre of the Serbian position stormed. 1,200 prisoners captured. Belgrade threatened.

### 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The English trading boats "Malachite" and "Primo" sunk off Le Havre, by German sub-marines.

The anti-English movement in India increases.

900 prisoners taken in Servia.

Czernowitz evacuated by the Austrians.

The Turks keep the Suez canal open for neutral ships.

Eight classes of Landsturm called in, in Russia.

Hindenburg, promoted to be Field-Marshal, his General-Staff Officer Ludendorff to be Lieutenant-General.

Field-Marshal, General von der Goltz, sent to the Turkish Main Headquarters. He is succeeded in Brussels by General Frhr. v. Bissing.

### 29<sup>th</sup> November.

The Kaiser goes to the Eastern seat of war.

A Russian attack on the East Prussian frontier a total failure.

The Germans take 5,000 prisoners and 18 heavy guns.

**30<sup>th</sup> November.**

General von Mackensen, Commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> German army is decorated with "Pour le mérite."

Help for soldiers' families considerably extended in Germany.

The Reichstagsfraktionen meet in Berlin, to discuss certain questions.

Austria makes progress in Poland.

General Field-Marshal von Hindenburg is made Chief of the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment by the Emperor of Austria.

# German Soldiers Letters

published in the press by the soldiers parents and relations

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## 1. From the Western Seat of War.

### A Touching speech of the Kaiser's.

The following is an extract from a letter of October 4, 1914 written by a Düsseldorf soldier:

To-day is Sunday, with Divine Service at which I was lucky enough to be present. After a long time, again a priest in vestments. It is an elevating impression for us all to assist at a Mass on the battle field almost in sight of the enemy. Perfect quiet everywhere, serious, very serious faces. The clergyman, who celebrated the Mass had been taken prisoner by the French in this war. After his release he was received by the Kaiser. In his sermon he mentioned that the Kaiser had dismissed him with the words: "Greet my comrades on the battle field and tell them to trust in God, then He will soon lead us back victorious". Let us hope that these words will soon be fulfilled.

*(Köln. Volkszeitung, November 2, 1914.)*

### All Souls' Day at Verdun.

A Landwehr officer from the front, sent us the following:

The sun had just disappeared behind Côtes Lorraines. The last beams tinted the wooded hills like blood. In the little village at the foot of the mountain, not a human being was to be seen all day long, but at dusk, the streets began to be lively. In front of a large barn small troops were gathered, which, commanded by a corporal are all bound for the same goal. They seem to march more seriously than is the custom of the Landwehr-man. One man carries a simple, roughly hewn oak cross and many of the others, wreaths of fresh flowers. In the small church-yard at the outskirts of the village, the troops gather round a fresh grave. An officer awaits them there. In the meantime night has fallen—a beautiful moonlight night—.Mysterious silence reigns everywhere. The thunder of the cannons, which had throughout the entire day boomed over the earth and shaken the air, had now become still. The cross, with a helmet adorning the top, is placed over the grave and fresh flowers are strewn on the ground. The officer—who is the leader of the company—steps forward into the midst of his men and breaks the silence by addressing them in an undertone. "Comrades! This



cruel war has also caused a very painful breach in our midst, two of our dear companions, who the day before yesterday were in the trenches, have fallen, killed by a French shell. Now they rest here in a foreign country, far from home. May they rest in peace!

To-day is All Souls' Day. According to an old christian custom, this day is dedicated to the dead and loving hands decorate their graves with flowers. Now with the sensations of our first sorrow fresh upon us, we stand round the newly dug grave to give our fallen comrades a proof of the last service of love, and to adorn their graves with wreaths, made by our own hands of late autumn flowers. The flowers will fade, but we shall keep the vow of comradeship and remain true to the memory of our dear comrades. And now let us kneel down and say a "Paternoster" for the repose of their souls, and a second, for their poor relations at home, that God may comfort them in their affliction."

Though the officer had spoken in a low but clear voice, he could not disguise his deep emotion, as the words came trembling from his lips. A loud sob escaped from the strong man's breast, he was a friend of one of the fallen men, they had been like brothers. They all kneel down in silence and pray to God, the Ruler of Battles . . . Again that mysterious, undisturbed stillness; even the moon disappears for a moment behind the clouds, as if to share in the mourning. The officer stands up, makes the sign of the Cross over the grave and with bowed head leaves the church-yard; the others follow, tears glistening in every eye.

The day before yesterday was the unlucky day. A direct shot into the trenches killed one man immediately; the second died while in the doctor's hands. We felt the shock deeply. Although we had often been exposed for several hours to the fiercest granate and shrapnel fire, we had up to this, no deaths to report, and now at once, two of our best men. Both were general favourites, particularly the tall strong bugler from Château Salins. No matter how tiresome the day I never heard him complain. We have several Lothringer men amongst us, most of whom are silent, quiet and willing, faithful in the fulfilment of their duty. This morning before dawn, we were released from the trenches and now lie here waiting for orders. As soon as it was day-light, the men began to work. Each one wanted to bestow a last act of love on his fallen comrades. One gathered late autumn flowers that were still in bloom, another, under the direction of a gardener wound them into wreaths, a joiner cut the cross, a house painter painted the inscription. As our whole district was under the enemy's artillery fire, no one dared show himself during the day, so we waited till evening for our solemn celebration.

All Souls' Day! . . . We can never forget that touching ceremony in the little silent church-yard of a forsaken Verdun village.

*(Köln. Volkszeitung, November 10, 1914.)*

## Huns.

The Social Democr. "Frankf. Volksstimme" sends us a letter for publication which was written by one of the militia reserve force men, to his wife. It is a little example illustrative of the German Huns so cried down in the foreign press.

13. October 1914.

We had expected to remain in Liège, but to-day the order came that we had to push on to . . . Liège is a nice town, well laid out and has beautiful bridges across the Meuse. The most beautiful of these bridges is blown up, here and there a shelled house is to be seen, otherwise the town has sustained little damage. To-day we visited the graves of our fallen comrades. Part of the population, principally the "better classes" are not very friendly towards us, while the others, the poorer classes, are very confiding. These poor people are in a dreadful state, they have nothing to eat and look miserable. We militia men give them whatever bread we have to spare, and any of us who have anything else (sausage, bacon etc.) divide with them. They are very grateful to us in spite of our being their enemy. Everything here is very expensive. a small glass of beer costs 25 Pfg. and is very bad at that. Our company is located in a hall about the size of the Trade Society's Hall. As soon as we get our pay, I shall send you part of it for I know how you need the money.

\*            \*            \*

One of the reserve militia men writes to the "Chemnitzer Volksstimme": Here in these French villages the women and children would have to starve, if the German military administration did not look after them. I could see clearly how very needy they are, when I was at Couvin, where we had to transport prisoners quite recently. We had each got half a loaf and half a pound of bacon as travelling rations. It is the first peace of eatable bacon I have had in the campaign up to this. At a table next us in a Hotel 5 men sat before their almost empty glasses. Judging by their clothes and general appearance they belonged to the poorer classes. With strange and staring eyes they kept looking at the "Saron's" opulent meal. My eye chanced to fall on the man sitting next me, who was devouring my supper (with his eyes). Unfortunately my ration had dwindled to a scanty quarter—we don't suffer from loss of appetite. Without more ado, I offered him what had remained. Overwhelmed with astonishment he took it from me, wrapped it up carefully and put it in his pocket. When I asked why he didn't eat it at once, he got the proprietor, who had witnessed the scene to tell me that he had 4 children and an ailing wife whose only food for days had been potatoes. His companions had the same

tale to tell, they had all come to town to procure bread for their numerous families, but their journey was fruitless. I soon told my comrades about these poor country folks and very soon we were able to offer them some "scraps", which made these French quite happy. In order to avoid the many "Mercis" which were addressed to me, I tried to get out of the establishment for a few minutes. When I was outside, my first recipient overtook me and offered me his Meerschaum-pipe as a present, which I of course refused. Upon his insisting that I should accept it, I agreed but offered to pay for it, as I should have liked it for a souvenir, but he would not agree to that. So I had to decline. I could not prevent him pressing me to his heart while the tears ran down his wrinkled face.

\* \* \*

Following extract is from a field letter sent to the "Kölnische Zeitung":—

Last week I slept in a real bed for the first time after a long while. The good old dame on whom we three were quartered, had even given us perfectly fresh bed linen. It is only in war that the meaning of the word to have one good night's rest can be properly appreciated. Very soon we three lay in the enormous bed and slept as soundly as at home, for making trenches is hard work. Towards 2 a.m. I was awakened by the old lady, who asked me to dress at once. I did not quite understand what she wanted. When I came to the front room, another woman stood there, who tried to make me understand I should go with her to fetch a midwife or a doctor. At last I understood, and as the former was not to be had, I went with her past our sentries—the villagers are forbidden to leave their houses at night—to the hospital to get one of our doctors. He tried, at first fruitlessly to procure the necessary instruments in order to do his duty to the young French citizen. Now I am to be godfather at the baptism. If we are still here I shall comply with the wish for there are no men in the village.

\* \* \*

In a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> September, written by a Prussian officer to his wife which the "Deutsche Tageszeitung" publishes, we read:—"Yesterday and the day before I was at different artillery posts as observer while Rheims was being shelled. Poor town! How it blazed on almost all sides yesterday evening was a gruesome but rare sight. This beautiful large town in flames. The French must be crazy to have given cause for this. The first time we marched into Rheims the town and the good modern forts were left to us almost without a fight. Now we have the forts and they are fortifying the open town.

It is impossible to express regret at the enemy's counter measures in simpler or more touching terms.

## Treatment of the English in Germany by an English Clergyman.

With permission of the French Foreign Office, Rev. Charles Alfred Moore, resident English Chaplain in Dresden for more than 20 years has been allowed to return to England. He was at the same time advised not to return to Dresden or Germany. On account of this advice, the clergyman addressed following interesting letter to the President of the Dresden Police, Geheimrat Köttig:

Dresden, October 24, 1914.

Dear Sir,

May I ask you for an explanation of the information I received from the Home Office (Ministerium des Innern) which grants me permission to leave Germany for England via Bentheim, but at the same time forbids me to return to Germany.

I gathered information from Dr. Heindl, one of the Directors of the Dresden Police, regarding my return and found that I am considered to be anti-German. I cannot let the opportunity pass without assuring you that I have no enmity whatever towards a country in which I spent 23 happy years. I have no cause for enmity, least of all in this unhappy crisis. Even when war broke out, no case came to my knowledge in which any of my countrymen had any cause for complaint against the public in general and the authorities in particular. British nationals were politely treated by the officials, who did their best to save us from all unnecessary inconvenience. In Dresden as well as in all other places all Englishmen, even those fit for service, enjoyed perfect freedom and "concentration camps" are happily not customary. We must all be very grateful for that. Under such circumstances I have no reason for entertaining anti-German opinions or showing ingratitude to a country which has become my second home. I hope I am not mistaken in the surmise that the words "Not to return to Germany" are only meant for the duration of the War.

(*Köln. Volkszeitung, November 2, 1914.*)

## The French and the Red Cross.

A doctor from Leer in East Friesland, who has been in active service in the North of France, sends a letter from which the "Leerer Anzeigenblatt" publishes the following extract:

This afternoon 3 p. m. I got orders from our colonel to try under cover of the Geneva flag, to go forward to fetch some of the many wounded, who were lying on the field four or five days. One of my colleagues was shot, carrying out the same instructions two days ago, but it was an order, and had to be obeyed. For safety, I gave my orderly my Iron Cross, money and watch, then proceeded with a corporal and 2 ambulance men. The corporal



first with the flag. I followed at a distance of 10 steps (the French have shelled 2 persons going along together). 50 yards behind us the ambulance men. On leaving the German firing line we walked slowly. As soon as one head appears—a volley—only a few days ago a young lieutenant got a shot in the head, which killed him on the spot. The feeling is “queer”.—One has no fear, but when one knows: Now you are 500—400 yards off the French, and if they wish they can cut you down—one feels queer—We went on 10 yards—then stopped—on again—at last 2 French men came out of a trench, an officer remained standing where he was, a corporal came forward. I told my corporal to stop, then proceeded a few steps, then the Frenchman, then I—till we were near enough and I said: “Bonjour, Monsieur; je voudrais chercher des blessés, est-il permis?” He gave me a billet on which was written in German: “Halt! Wait for the General’s decision!” Quite near me a wounded man was groaning and I asked leave to take him with me. “No, you could then see our positions, it cannot be allowed.” After great pressing, we were permitted to carry him off. Five yards to our right a German cried out: “Take me along too!” I begged and implored the Frenchman to allow us to take him, but the answer was: “No, go back at once to your own lines and wait for the General’s decision, which you will get in an hour or two.” I tried to move him, but he grew impatient and then I said to my comrades: “Pull yourselves together lads, we must leave him there,” but I called out to the poor wounded fellow: “In an hour I shall come and take you along.” The French General’s answer was a perfect shower of shells, and the reply he could not allow our wounded to be removed, as we mutilated French women so horribly. It was dreadful to think of having to leave the poor fellow lying there and have no hope of fetching him. You cannot paint it and I shall not try to do so for you. It was dreadful for me as a doctor. The man saw us 50 yards off and could not be taken along. My heart felt like breaking, but my good corporal got him this evening as soon as it was dark. The fellow had crawled forward towards our lines. I could have kissed him and had a long talk with him. The corporal will get the Iron Cross. I cannot describe the joy I felt when I saw the man pretty safe with us. You can fancy it.—Now he is on the way home.—

*(Bautzener Nachrichten, November 4, 1914.)*

### A Fight with the English.

We got the agreeable order to spend the night out of doors. At last it was arranged that one section remained outside, the other—in which I was,—was sent on to the horses, which were in bivouac (without fire) in the next village. We fumbled our way there in half an hour, unbuckled our over-coats and rested chatting for an

hour, then got our supper and had to turn out again. When we came to our stand, 3 big cocks of straw, our lieutenant missed the second section. "Corporal, go back and fetch the second section." The whole way back,—all lay sound asleep in bivouac—Papa knows what that means, what a reception you get from a soldier when you wake him up suddenly. But after half an hour I managed to find out from the corporal on duty, that the second section had other orders. Back again all alone. A young goat trotted after me all the way. It had gone out with the rifle-men, turned back with me, and now returned with me. I did not want it—but no use—it took no notice of either a hit or a kick and made me furious running along after me on the moon-lit road, whenever I stopped, knocking against my shins. Of course I went wrong, lost my direction and failed to find the straw ricks in the moon-light and saw myself and my goat in the hands of the English out-posts, when suddenly I heard the call: "Halt, wer da?" That was music in my ears. It was one of our squadron's outposts and after a quarter of an hour I was with our rifles. It was 3.15 a.m. At 4 o'clock I was awakened by loud machine gun firing quite near. I listened and then fell asleep again. At 6 a.m. it began. First in the village, which we had taken the day before, except for a few farmhouses, the rifles and two sections made for the farmhouses, we were kept in reserve in a barn. Here I heard the cause of the machine gun firing. In the morning the English had attacked the rifles' outposts with great shouting to mark a splendid attack. They ran against a company of machine guns—and got their deserts. The farms were stormed and burned down, only one resisted. It was a large farmyard with massive outside walls, several buildings inside. It was impossible to get at it. The English were right under the roof and fired on whoever came in sight. Well, we pushed on pioneers with handbombs. We had infantry reinforcements, till they got their position and now Old England began to give way. The infantry and rifles showered the flying British with shot. Machine guns were fired from the garret windows, and chimneys. We were ordered to cover the right firing line, as it was impossible to proceed here on account of the farmyard. While the whole line pressed forward at a terrific rate (in spite of the enemy's artillery side-fire) we had to remain lying down with English bullets whizzing over our heads. As long as we lay flat, they could hardly harm us. At last the pioneers came, and soon the outer part of the yard was in flames. But from the intact parts of the house the enemy shot with great bravery at whoever came in sight. It was going on too long, something had to be done. At length we decided to close in the whole yard and blow up the house, the pioneers chased off on bicycles for fresh shells. We were posted at all the gates. I and my 6 men at one of the entrances, with cocked guns, watching and waiting for a number of English to break through at any moment, our eyes, noses and mouths full of smoke—soft rain from heaven—we stood like this for about

3 hours, my men being changed every 15 minutes. At last the pioneers returned and began their dangerous work of destruction. They had to get at the house and did so, although the inmates returned the fire. Three shells had exploded, but still half the house was standing. Suddenly, in broken German we heard a call: "We can't stand it any longer, we must surrender, we have stood all we could, our strength is broken." G . . . now called out, his voice quivering with excitement: "No cartridges—the officers to come forward alone with raised arms—." They came, an English colonel and major with 34 men. It was over. All bags were quickly searched, then we started off for La Bassée where 240 English were prisoners in the Church. Their first question was if we had taken French prisoners too. Then we had to march back to La Bassée, an hour's distance, the English on the dry road and we in the mud each side. It was horrid and I was quite dead when we arrived in L . . .

(*Voss. Zeitung, November 5, 1914.*)

### A Senior Officer to his Wife.

You have no idea what war is like. It is only now that the horses and all the other remains of dead animals and the battle can be buried. The magnificent roads are covered with mud, several inches high, and have holes that break wheels, axles etc. The bridle paths have no foundation and every one walks, rides, drives and motors on trial, 50 yards to the right and left, through the fields across clover, turnips and stubble. All no use, it is worse than the road. In the present positions the wounded often lie between the two firing lines. When there is a pause, we allow the English ambulance men to carry away their injured. But as soon as ours are to be seen, they are at once shot at. We have a great many wounded doctors, so our injured must often lie for hours before we can send to help them. The English are as selfish and intolerant in war, as in trade, they want to destroy as many of us as they can. And how much has to be destroyed and ruined that has cost so much care and attention in times of peace.

The enormous battle is still going on. We and the English, in one place, the French and we in another, opposite each other in the trenches, buried in the earth up to our noses. Both sides make little attacks from day to day, fortune varying, but we cannot complain, as the luck has been on our side. Artillery fire begins as soon as they think they have something to hit. They shoot every where that they think any of our men could be. Sometimes there is perfect quiet for long distances for half a day and a whole night. Of course you hear the canons from some place continually. Several times I was in the firing line on observation duty, the shrapnels exploded about 100 yards off; they had remarked the officer on the other side, but before they fell, I was some place else.

You cannot think how comparatively cosy our brave soldiers have made their trenches. Every 3 or 4 men have their "hole" upholstered with straw; sometimes even holes for cooking, in spite of the enemy being quite near. The officers have their tents, sunk deep into the ground and lie there day and night; often they have a game of cards, or pass the time in some other agreeable way, there is plenty of wine, the country supplies that. I cannot say that fresh meat is scarce. These days of battle can be looked upon as a rest if the weather is good. An English officer, who was killed, had a diary in which was written: "It seems that the best rest is to be had in a battle."

The "Feldküche" supplies us with warm food twice a day, in the evening after dark and in the morning before dawn. Our "Mess" (Casino) in a sugar factory looks very nice and comfortable. Our boys (English prisoners) who pass every day, have to sweep the yard and the rooms and strew sand. To-day a chap of 16½ years was among them, who has been in service a year and a half.

This was the first day that I was really under fire. It was especially for me and I got back safe. The English are funny folks. They shot with heavy guns as I crossed the hill with one man. Five times, and just think what every shot costs. We are not so extravagant with our ammunition. But for the distance they shot well, the shells burst only 15 yards off us.

*(Dresdener Nachrichten, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1914.)*

### **How Hussars and Lancers destroyed 2 French Cavalry Brigades.**

On 4<sup>th</sup> October we were quietly riding along a country road in France, we . . .<sup>th</sup> Lancers and the . . .<sup>th</sup> Hussars. Suddenly a dispatch rider dashes up, bringing the news that 2 cavalry brigades (double our number), have been sighted 2,000 yards off. We walked our horses for about 500 yards, then took our positions in sections. Then off at a gallop with tilted lances and sabres hanging on our arms. Each of us knew, what it meant to have to fight against double numbers.

A hasty shake-hands with the comrades—a last prayer—a pat on the faithful horse's neck—then on. The trumpeters blow "quick gallop." Soon we were in a glen, then over a hill and at a distance of 200 yards we saw the enemy galloping towards us; we could even hear the horses snorting. When we were about a 100 yards off each other, our captain called "Steady." 30 yards—and I saw him draw his revolver—a report, and the French leader sinks from his horse. A fearful encounter followed. Lance against lance, man against man, and every now and then revolver reports. Suddenly, I see my Sergeant surrounded by 8 Frenchmen. We hue him out and in a few seconds 8 young enemies are lying on the grass that



is dyed red with their blood. Our Sergeant is safe and we go rushing on. Most of us have lost our lances or left them sticking in our enemies. Now we take to our sabres, we are all intoxicated with rage and want revenge for our fallen comrades. Shoulder to shoulder, over the corpses of men and horses—we don't know what we are doing in our rage—"Halt, what is that?" The trumpets are blowing to rally—We hurry back, the enemy after us at a distance of about 50 yards, shouting Hurrah, for they think they have put us to flight and are ever so pleased. Little they think what is going to happen. To our right, the corner of a wood, there, under cover (we did not know it ourselves), 8 machine guns, which at once begin their gruesome work and man for man is mown down.

We stop—out with the carbines and our bullets are showered over the enemy. Now that they remark what havoc we have made among them, they try to get off to the left. But 2 companies of infantry, at not more than 200 yards distance give them a worthy reception. The German rifles shoot slow and sure.

We see the men and horses rolling in blood, there is no escape for the enemy. They try to get back across the Marne, as they came, but that is guarded by 4 German machine guns, which keep their posts and don't cease firing till the last man has fallen from his horse. Those who advance are shot by our rifles.

The whole engagement had barely lasted one hour. In this space of time, 3,000 enemies lost their lives. It was a ghastly sight—Wherever you looked, nothing but dead and wounded, groaning and screaming! I almost lost consciousness. Our squadron had to shoot the badly wounded horses. There were about 700 of them, the rest were dead. On the French side not a hundred horses remained uninjured.

*(Frankfurter Zeitung, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1914.)*

## The Fierce Fighting near Nieuport.

*(Written from a field-hospital.)*

... You want to know what it is like up there—well, I can hardly describe it. The Belgians, French, and English have made their entrenchments, in the dunes before Nieuport. A splendid position, built out with sheets of steel on top, covered with sand and grass, so that nothing could be seen. We had a perfectly level country before us, mostly marshes and meadows, with a great many water ditches about 3—15 m. wide. Every night we went on from 300—500 m. and then made new entrenchments. On the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> inst. we had proceeded like this, about 700 m. without having many losses. Before us a canal about 30 m. wide, and a hundred yards beyond it the hostile positions. I was sent on with 3 men on patrol, to see whether a stone bridge, across

the canal was occupied by the enemy or not. We got there without seeing any of the enemy about. I left my 3 men on the bridge and crept over to the far side, about 100 yards without a shot being fired. I then walked back to my men and said, we could smoke a cigarette, the fellows had all gone off. But we had hardly struck a match, when a shower of fire was begun for us four. We threw ourselves on the ground and crept back where our company was digging its nightly quarter, and heard there that one of our buglers had got a shot through his head. That was the result of the terrific firing. I met the man here in hospital, he is in Berlin now. He was shot in the left eye, through his head, and out at the right side of his neck. He was quite gay and had no pain whatever.—We lay in our new trench till about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the hostile artillery firing on us all the time and the English marines from the sea: but the latter shot mostly too far. At 3 o'clock we got the order "Get ready to storm". As soon as we set about climbing over our parapets, the infantry and machine-guns began to fire on us. It was like as if handfuls of peas had been thrown over us, the bullets fell so near. We had often been under such fire, that we thought nobody could get out unhurt: but none of us had ever experienced anything like this. Now the enemies' shells began to burst quite near us, as you can imagine we presented an easy target. We went back to our trenches at once. I got off safely, and now lay on the open field. About a hundred yards in front of me, there was a heap of manure. At the next volley of our artillery I ran to the manure-heap and lay down behind it. Now I crept from heap to heap, and had just reached the canal, when the bridge flew up in the air. They had blown it up with contact-mines. Now we got the order to go into the trenches. I had dug a fairly large hole, and leaned back to throw out the clay before me when I felt a pain, as if somebody hit me with a big stick across the leg. At first I paid no attention, and began to smoke my pipe so as to be as comfortable as possible. It was only then I noticed that blood was oozing out of my boot and it began to pain me, but I remained lying quietly until it was dark; then two strong men took me by the arms and brought me back, for the firing had left off somewhat. Then we were taken to the bandaging station by the ambulance men. There they cut off my boot and now I saw that I was shot through the right leg, from the calf down to the ankle. But I think I can leave here next week, a great many fellows have been sent away cured, and none of us want to remain here any longer.

(*Nordd. Allg. Zeitung*, November 10, 1914.)

### Life in the Trenches.

We take a copy of the extract of a letter from the "*Rhein-Westfäl. Zeitung*", which Herr Wulko, a reserve officer, who is a

government architect, writes from the West. It is a vivid description of life in the entrenchments:

We are completely cut off from the outside world, i. e. our rear-guard on account of the incessant artillery fire, which is going on. The telephone beside me alone, reminds us that we have intercourse with our commanding officers. Catering for the troops, of course presents difficulties. Our field-kitchen with its big copper boiler and coffee-kettle are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours distance from us, and can only be brought along, when it is dark, as far as can be risked in safety, on account of the artillery firing. So we can only get a meal and some coffee once a day, which the men, tolled off for the purpose, fetch in the soldiers' cooking utensils. It is no easy job to fetch food for 140 men, and then divide it equally in the firing line, all in the dark. It must all be done very quietly, no talking nor rattling of plates or knives, and no one is to come too short. The field-kitchen carries on other communications with the outside world, takes letters and cards to be sent home, or brings any that the post has brought for the company—presents, bread, now and then a cask of wine—sometimes even some "Schnaps" (spirits) to keep us warm these cold nights, or boots that have been mended, and takes the others that are broken or worn out to the shoemaker in the baggage train behind the troops. All this must be carried on in the dark—without noise, or losing anything on the way. The distribution of food, parcels, letters, &c. in the entrenchments is consequently a work of art in itself, that must be accomplished if necessary with closed eyes. The kitchen-department (a corporal and 2 men, if possible cook and butcher, who can drive) often sends something extra for the leaders of the company—a piece of roast meat, a bit of butter (latter causes general excitement) and other goodies, sometimes a bottle of champagne, which goes round without glasses whenever 2 or 3 comrades are together. Now, I am here by myself. The distribution of food behind the "front" is ever so much simpler, as the men get it direct from the big pot which can hold 200 litres. There, they come forward one by one, with hungry eyes and their own plates and spoons, and as soon as each receives his warm portion, he sits, stands, or lies down and devours it. The rations consist of meat, with or without potatoes as the case may be—a soup, made of peas, beans or corn. Then each gets a cup of coffee. As a rule they get coffee, besides, morning and evening; in the evening with sausage or bacon, as far as the catering officer can manage it for his battalion. The red wine, which we often get here, supplies us with a good warm punch in the evenings instead of coffee. This, of course, is all, only if the kitchen and company are not forced to carry on their communications all in the dark; when that is the case, then there is only one meal a day, bread, bacon and coffee. The places which have had to suffer from the war, are nearly all forsaken. Butter, milk, and eggs are hardly ever to be got. Cattle and fowl are sacrificed to the butcher's knife.

(*Nordd. Allg. Zeitung, November 11, 1914.*)

## The storming of Vailly.

A 19 year old volunteer from Berlin, who is in the West as a pioneer, describes the storming of Vailly, in which he took part, in a letter to his parents from which we take the following extract:

Vailly, 30<sup>th</sup> October 1914.

Sooner than I had imagined, I come to send you an account of what happened yesterday.—The attack on Vailly! Of course you will have read about it in the newspapers, but I shall tell you some details which made such an impression on me that I can never forget them. On 29<sup>th</sup> October the company was called together in the afternoon and our commanding officer told us that the storming of Vailly was fixed to take place on the 30<sup>th</sup>, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and that we pioneers were to lead off the attack. We were given wire scissors, to cut the obstacles, which were erected in front of the French positions. We started from St. Berte on 29<sup>th</sup> October at 8 o'clock in the evening, so as to take our places in the entrenchments at once. It is an hour's distance. At 11 o'clock I was sent to fetch pistols and cartridges. Our artillery was firing heavy (21 centimetres) and lighter guns—the enemy returned the fire with rifles. On the way back, I had to pass parts of the road, which were under the enemy's heavy fire; two gunners who were with me, were badly wounded, but I escaped. During the night we made several patrols, and cut the wire in different places, without getting too much of the fire. Towards 5 o'clock we had to fall back, as the artillery fire had begun. At 8 a.m. the real attack was to be started.

It was a cold rainy morning—it is 7 o'clock! We were waiting anxiously, listening to our artillery, which was playing havoc with the hostile positions. Now it is 7.45 . . . . Every one is ready . . . . but we still have a quarter of an hour to wait . . . . It seems ages . . . . still 5 minutes. The artillery keeps on firing.—Now . . . . The captain appears, encouraging his men in an undertone, his watch in his hand. A second's pause, the artillery ceases . . . . we hear the command "Jump up, march, march!" In less than a second every one is on his legs dashing wildly forward. To the right and left the comrades fall, but no one has time to heed—there—a little hill—good cover. I and three comrades dash towards it, just as we hear the call: cover.—There we lay 50 yards off the enemy, and could neither go on nor turn back.

The French shot like madmen. One of the soldiers who lay with me, discovered a hill, which would afford cover the same as where we were, at about 20 steps in front of us. Deciding quickly, he gave the command "Jump up, march, march!" We dashed there and now lay quite near the French. Now a dreadful fire began. Suddenly the French left their foremost trenches. On we go, with "Hurrah" till the French have to hide in the second line of



entrenchments. Now we are in the hostile trenches in perfect cover. The ground is covered with the bodies of dead Frenchmen, but several among them are only simulating. However, soon their pretence is reality. Just at this moment one of my comrades is shot in the leg and the non-commissioned officer orders me to bring him to the bandaging station. It was an ensign, who had tried to get a comrade out of the fire. He had to be taken away at once, as we were afraid of him losing too much blood. On my return the second trench had been taken—and then it went on, up the hill into the village before the enemy could really offer strong resistance.

Machine-guns began their work here, as the fleeing French had to cross a bridge (there had been three, but our artillery had destroyed two of them beforehand), and the guns were focussed exactly on the bridge, on which corpses lay heaped in a few moments. The rest were taken prisoners, more than 3,000.

We took Vailly after fierce fighting, but many, very many of my comrades paid for the victory with their lives. I went back to the place where I had lain with my companions that morning. You cannot imagine what a shock I got.—They all lay, just as I had left them—but all three dead.

Ah, my dear parents, it was now I remarked the horrors of war. At the rallying-point in Vailly, our general appeared, praised us, and said that in this battle the lion's share of praise must be given to the pioneers. He finished his speech with a cheer for the Kaiser in which we loudly joined. Then he gave us pioneers cigarettes. On our way back to St. Berte we met infantry troops, who gave us a warm reception and were loud in their praises of the work we accomplished yesterday.

## How a Company of Zuaves was destroyed.

(From a field letter.)

Last night the "Black French" paid us a visit. We were able to inform our artillery of the fact by telephone. When the black "Promoters of Culture" had come within about 200 yards there was a fearful noise. Although we opened a destructive fire—machine guns and cannons taking part on the attack—the blacks were still driven on. The French artillery too, fired like mad on our positions. We got a glimpse of a gruesome but wonderful night-skirmish. The glowing shells, search-lights and the fire balls presented a vivid picture. The Zuaves seemed to be quite blended, and dashed right into the arms of Death. Almost all of them—more than 1500—were cut down . . . In heaps they lay on the whole ground before us. The French remained at a safe distance from the fire, and again refused to agree to an armistice for burying the dead, which did not make a sojourn in the entrenchments more agreeable. Al-

though the French must have wasted about 12,000 granate and shrapnels on us, we had only to report 8 dead and 30 wounded. They are very extravagant with ammunition. But they often make us waste our powder too,—by dressing up dolls to look like soldiers for us to shoot at. Many a practical joke is played—and in this way the days both good and bad, go by in the entrenchments. But we continue to push forward.

*(Frankf. Zeitung, November 14, 1914.)*

## 2. From the Eastern Theater of War.

### How the Cossacks live.

An Austrian officer who was present during the fighting in Galicia, describes the Cossacks in a letter to his relatives:

At present we are in a district, in which Cossacks and Russians were some days ago. The Russians are bearable, but the Cossacks! . . . Even the Russian soldiers don't want to have anything to do with these creatures. Creatures! they cannot be called human beings. To relate their atrocities, books would have to be written, and the writer gifted with a talent of a "Sven Hedin." There is plenty of material here for dramas. I shall relate one or two incidents. The houses in which they have been, have such an appearance on their departure, that in most cases it is impossible to go into them; everything is broken open, and anything that appears to be of value, is broken or torn to bits and flung on the ground.

Yesterday I was in a Castle, dating from 13<sup>th</sup> century but the walls with big black holes were all that remained. The caretaker told me that the library alone, was worth several million "Kronen", not to mention several old masters. If international agreements could be kept in war, it would be well to enforce "Cossacks" being prevented taking part in it. As a fighting factor they don't deserve much consideration, as they are only to be found where there are no opposing troops. They have no provision transports—as they depend entirely upon their stealing activity for provisions (in the enemy's country).

Yesterday we rested in a creamery, where these creatures had spent some days a short time ago. What a picture of misery! The caretaker told us how the iron safes had been broken open, and four Cossacks toiled for five hours, before the press was sufficiently damaged, to enable the robbery, although the caretaker had assured them repeatedly that the safe contained no money. The poor man was secretly praying that this might be the case, as he was not quite sure whether there was any money in it or not, they had threatened to hang him at once, in case they found any, and on this point he had no reason to doubt their words.

Luckily for him, the safe only contained securities and bills of exchange. The commanding officer now demanded his paying the latter. Rather an amusing situation!! He only desisted on the caretaker's swearing, by all that was holy, that all his ready money had been taken from him. They broke a microscope to bits, which they found in the safe, although the caretaker implored them not to, as it was very valuable and of no possible use to them, but the ignorant Cossack flinging it on the ground, maintained that the whole Russian army could be observed by means of it, so it had to be destroyed. When they discovered the distillery, they broke open the doors and drank the 90 per cent spirits-of-wine like water. It was only on the arrival of a Russian infantry colonel that the festivity was put an end to. He had the whole contents of the distillery let out, more than a thousand "Hectoliter." The whole neighbourhood smelled of spirits even yesterday.

Near Komarow I came across a distillery where the Cossacks had drunk up the spirits of wine, because there was nothing better to be found. The Cossacks, and even the Russians, often have sales—that is, they break open the shops, take what they can use for themselves, then call the inhabitants of the place together and sell out "cheap" "very cheap," only to get rid of everything.

*(Angsb. Abendzeitung, November 1, 1914.)*

## How the Russians were deceived and conquered.

A wounded Hamburg man, who at present is convalescing at a watering place on the Baltic coast, describes some interesting details of the fight with the Russians, in East Prussia.

" . . . Of the  $6\frac{1}{2}$  weeks that I spent in the field, we were fully  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in touch with the opponent. Sometimes we arrived at places, from which the Russians had just gone, and sometimes they came to places we had just left. From that time till the 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> army corps came to our aid for the decisive battle at Tannenberg, we were much too weak for the circumstances, round about Ortelsburg, Neidenburg, Gilgenburg, Hohenstein, as far as Allenstein. We had against us, 4 Armeekorps and 3 cavalry divisions. In order to lead the aeroplanes astray, as to the strength of our troops, we built up false trenches, gutting in them, heads made of straw and for guns we took round pieces of wood. We also placed there, what appeared to be a whole battery of artillery: for instance two cart wheels with the trunk of a tree made a splendid cannon. We often watched how, after the aeroplanes had discovered our "position" they would then return as quickly as possible. But now as real troops, we had to undertake long tiresome marches, sometimes forward, then again backwards as we were still too weak to attack the enemy. Meanwhile the Russians did well for themselves, "conquered" one piece of land after another taking with them every-

thing they could find in East Prussia whether they could make use of it or not. Every village received a Russian name and the few inhabitants, who had not fled, were made Russian subjects with great ceremony. Everywhere the Russians asked the same question "How far is it to Berlin"? The Russian soldiers had been told by their leaders that the French and English were already in Berlin. At last the 1<sup>st</sup> Armeecorps arrived, and on 28<sup>th</sup> August we started to attack a strong Russian position near "Groß-Gardienen". The Russians never attack on principle, though they were ever so much stronger. We marched on determinedly, till quite unexpectedly we were surrounded on all sides by infantry fire, we immediately dispersed and lay down quite quietly. The shots now flew past us, at a distance of about 3—400 m. The Russians seem to like wasting their powder, for they fire off as many cartridges as their guns can hold. We had been lying there for about 2 hours, when we received the first recognition of our artillery. Under cover of our artillery we went forward in a country very favourable for us, without firing as much as one shot. Then we heard the well-known signal "Side guns forward!" Rushing and shouting "Hurrah" we dashed forward. We had not far to go till we came upon the fellows, whom we hauled out of their trenches with iron brooms. The trenches, packed full of men presented a remarkable sight. Only a few of them had the courage to shoot, some tied white handkerchiefs to their bayonets and others threw down their guns and begged us to spare their "little bit of life". Our artillery had done its work well, in some places the trenches were quite full of corpses and the Russian trenches are very deep. For our one man, there were 20 Russians, whom we disarmed and they undressed themselves to their shirts to show us they had really no weapons. A few of our men brought the prisoners away. There were 4 Japanese officers among them, men who were to fight for the honour of other dead bodies. Unfortunately night came on so early that many made good their escape, only however to fall into our hands a week later at Tannenberg.

Russians kept on arriving the whole night through, sometimes one man and sometimes several, all—without a word gave themselves up as prisoners. Heaps of ammunition, mountains of guns, 6 machine guns, 1 flag and a General with 2300 Rubels in his possession, this was the first large spoil the 7<sup>th</sup> company had to report . . . "

*(Hamburger Fremdenblatt, November 17, 1914.)*

### A Captain's Letter.

A letter, showing the friendly relations existing between the officers and men, in this war, has made a remarkably good impression in our neighbouring town of "Brandenburg", and must not



be forgotten. A captain in the Prinz-Heinrich-Fusiliers, writes as follows:

"In a trench near B., October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

Dear Mrs . . . . .

It is with a heavy heart that I fulfil my duty of sending you these few lines, to inform you, that your dear son Alwin J. is among the number of those, who has given his life for his country. A wary bullet took him from us this morning 8 a. m. just as I was talking to him. A shot in the head put an unexpected end to his hopeful young life. He suffered no pain, had no idea that the "Angel of Death" was standing so near him.

This afternoon we bore him to his last resting place. I put the photograph of his fiancée on his heart and some flowers in his folded hands. All was done as touchingly and pathetically as is only possible in war, and as I wanted my dear J. to have it. He was here with me in this company almost 3 days, before that more than 6 weeks with the 2<sup>nd</sup> recruiting depot.

I am desolate at losing such a dear faithful diligent man, whom I looked upon as a son and brother, on account of his bravery and reliability. His early death has caused me bitter tears. God comfort you in your sorrow. Your son has died for his King, country and family on the field of honour! The death of a brave man! God will grant you a meeting with him in the great "Beyond" where is no death or separation. J. asked me to send his diary to his fiancée, which I now do, as well as his ring and her letters. Everything else will be sent to you, as soon as the field-post allows larger parcels to be forwarded. May God comfort you dear Mrs . . . . . Sharing your sorrow

Believe me to remain

Yours etc. . .

Captain of the . . . . . Company.

The young man, a volunteer, was a general favorite with his comrades, for the present the captain has erected a wooden cross to his memory. (*Nordl. Allg. Zeitung, November 6, 1914.*)

### 3. Letters from the Fleet.

#### Divine Service on the Beach.

. . . . . Yesterday evening at 10 o'clock we had the privilege of being the first German troops to reach the hostile Western coast. Our line marched furthest to the right, towards the watering place Blaukenberghe. North of Ostend.



Our reception in this place was elevating. Before arriving there, a cavalry patrol had related that there were many Germans there, who could not get away in time, when the war broke out, so on our approach we began to play "Die Wacht am Rhein" which brought all the population out. The reception was corresponding—great rejoicing. The German girls—many of whom had been engaged by the big hotels for the season—proved their friendship for the soldiers. Arm in arm, in the ranks, into the town they marched with our men. One could see by their faces, they felt themselves released from the Belgians treatment. This morning I made the acquaintance of a hotel proprietor, who had had to stay hiding in his cellar, to avoid being insulted. Now he has hoisted his German flag and need not live in terror—we have seen to that. Our troops are all quartered in the hotels here, every man has a bed for himself!

To-day we have time to rest, it was necessary and well earned, as for several weeks now we have been incessantly on the march.

This morning we had Divine Service on the beach. Thousands of people, among them, many English and French tourists, who could not get away in time, came to look on. They were not a little astonished when we appeared, taking our positions like at a parade. They had not expected to see such discipline among the Prussian Landwehr men, even in war. But the climax was reached when our admiral made a patriotic speech. Many a Lord who happened to be among the spectators, had to hear and see how our admiral lifted his hand threateningly towards the sea and urged us to cheer the Kaiser so loudly, that our cousins across the water must hear it. It was a splendid experience; the crowds on the beach promenade did not disperse.

Three thundering "Hurrahs" for His Majesty the Kaiser, put an end to this celebration, which neither we nor our enemies are likely to forget.

(*Magdeb. Zeitung, November 8, 1914.*)

### A Letter from one of our Battle-Ships.

Of all fighting powers, the Navy has had, up to this, the most difficult task, and will very likely for some time to come. The greater part of it has to lie-in-waiting. Many will ask "Why don't the big ships do something and why do they stay lying there quietly?" The only answer to these questions is, that the time for the Navy has not yet come. The line ships (on one of which I am) are of such value, that they cannot be played with recklessly; on the contrary, each fighting unit must be handled with utmost care, as even the slightest damage done to one of these ships is worse than the loss of a few cruisers or torpedo-boats. The big ships are the "back-bone" of the fleet, the core of our power on the sea. England's world power is based on her large fleet. According to how

It is weakened, her power will fall, and according to this, difficulties will crop up in her colonies. England can bring this enormous maritime strength almost undivided against us. It would be foolish and reckless if Germany would challenge the far superior, (in strength) English Fleet in an open battle with its entire sea power. It would be too great a risk, even if we could be certain that a considerable part of the English fleet would thereby be destroyed. The best proof, however, how highly England herself estimates our sea power, is shown by the fact, that she has not yet ventured to attack us in spite of her superiority. The actions of our fleet in the few opportunities it has had of showing its ability, have given England something to think about. In almost all encounters which it has had up to this with English ships, it has been more than able to hold its own, and do them an amount of harm. We have already had many examples of the bravery and fitness of the German sea-men and shall have, as long as the spirit of the fleets exists—and there is no reason to doubt its stability—still more. On this account we must leave the solving of the problem, why the big ships do nothing, to our Naval officers, in whom we have full confidence. Of course what I have written to you as to the reason of our waiting so long, is only my private opinion. The real reason, as I said, lies in the hands of the Admiralty.

Yours truly

Sailor Emil Metzger,  
S. M. S. "Helgoland."

(*Pfälzischer Kurier*, November 5, 1914.)

## 4. About the Air Fleet.

### Two Airmen's Letters.

#### *I. From the East.*

Yesterday morning I got orders, to fly over W.. and throw bombs on the railway station of P.—I could have jumped for joy—Forward!—The weather was fearful, rain and high wind, so it took us some time, (every 2 bombs weigh 10 kilogramm) to reach an altitude of 1100 meters, thus getting above the rain clouds, but there, we came into others which reached up to 1800 meters, and it was impossible to rise above them. So we had to get through—we managed it—but how, I shall not describe! After 2 hours, we glided down smoothly. While we were having a short rest, we could hear the roar of the cannons from G.. which is not far off, where we were to take the field positions. At noon, we started off again, the weather having cleared somewhat—when we had got about 500 meters high, we looked about for a clear spot to ascend, as we did not relish having to get through the clouds once more.

Suddenly a blue patch of sky peeped out from between 2 banks of clouds and we both said: "Now or Never". It was just splendid, gradually getting higher and higher between the clouds. At last, hurrah, we had reached the height we wanted, I turned round laughing to my pilot. It was a magnificent feeling—flying above the clouds, with that grand white-flaked mass underneath us. Soon we could see more.—In the meantime we had flown over G... where the battle had been decided in our favour. Burning farms threw strange lights on the magnificent view we had from above, on our marching troops and the fleeing Russians. But the most exciting moment was to come yet—We dashed on towards W... Now we could see it. You can't imagine what it is, to fly over a fortress, all the ramparts spread out before you like on a tray. My heart thumped with joy!! I got out my paper and quietly noted down all that was to be seen. But why didn't they shoot at us? We were 1800 meters high! Now on to the station of P... the object of our bombs! We came nearer to the W... Now we have crossed wide river—We opened the safety gear, nearer—a little more to the left—a tug—the works give a little snap, and down falls the destructable bomb.

We waited a few seconds looking out for the result—nothing—nothing to be seen. I am sorry to say we don't know where it exploded. Now we went on a bit, and then turned back. I wanted to throw the second bomb on the railway bridge. As we turned back, my pilot pointed downwards and underneath us at least 500 meters deeper, I saw little white clouds. Ha, ha—at last they had wakened up and were shooting at us, the smoke was caused by exploding shrapnels and shells. What did we do? Flew right over the town, they could not shoot at us there, as the falling splinters would have been too dangerous for the inhabitants. So we had to face due north, as the bridge was not quite under us the first time. We came on nearer, now we have a direct course. The lever in front,—a jerk—an anxious wait of about a moment's duration—Bum—It is just on the bank, a little too much to one side. What a pity! A few inches further and the bridge would have been rendered impassible for some time at least. Now we had done our duty and flew home to..... where we landed at 3,50 p. m.

## *II. From the West.*

The fighting has now lasted for weeks and there is no sign of an end. If only the French don't flee again, so that we can really defeat their army at last. If they get away—the whole thing has to be gone through again! We are here behind our corps, watching like setters. Every day, at least two machines from our section are sent up—so the French can't possibly get off unobserved. The weather is very favourable just now, for observation flights,

we have a splendid view. The day before yesterday and early this morning we made two splendid ascents.

On starting, it was hazy—but later on, perfectly magnificent. We were about 2500 m. high and had the whole big battle field, a stretch of about 200 kilometre underneath us. In the N. W. the . . . army under fierce artillery fire stretching as far as the West, where it almost joined the long line of the . . . army, which was partially hidden by the haze. Wherever the eye rested nothing but smoke. Right underneath us the x. Armeekorps was engaged in a bitter contest against a strongly fortified French position. Every now and then we could see little explosions in the air, but none of them reached us. I can well imagine how angry they were down there. Every day the German birds come buzzing along, circle round, looking and peering into the furthest corners and noting down everything. We could see the big Bivouacs, behind the firing line—a long line of troops was marching along the road. I am sure they fired at us, but our good little motor took us on—unflinchingly. I cannot describe our feelings.

The day before yesterday we had a little adventure. I had just turned off the motor to come down on our way home, when we suddenly saw a Frenchman just over us. We turned on the gas at once and jumped up—with the motto: “If we must die,—then fighting.” We tried to get above the others, but as soon as they saw that we wanted to fight, they made off. A pity! We sent a couple of bullets after them and then made for home.

We have brought down two French air-machines with pistols, so it is not at all necessary to run away from them. But the essential thing is, to get higher than the enemy, so that he can be got at from above.

But now to the flight which we had to-day.

As I said, underneath us, the x. corps fighting, to the N. W. R. with C. and H. in communication with the other troops. Every now and then a little white cloud of smoke, but we can't see anything of the fighting troops;—we are too high—and the infantry and artillery have excellent cover just in this district. We can only recognize the big Bivouacs, but that is quite enough. The airman's duty is to report troops, formations etc. . . . . On our side two big balloons looking like toys. Oh—our calling is a splendid one, particularly in war. I shall never forget some of the sights I have seen. I make a flight about every third day—most interesting—but that is hardly the correct expression for a reconnoitering flight, when two nations are trying to decide their Fates, under one. Now, they are both buried in the earth, up to their noses, each waiting for the order to attack.

A splendid calling, the airman's! To me it is everything. When I can fly along for about 2,000 m.—2,500 m. everything else is in abeyance. I forget myself—that I have personal interests, remember-



ing only that my task is to help Germanism and culture and assist in securing the victory. I even forget that I am a human being, so splendid is it to fly up above the bursting shells and see the tiny clouds of smoke, which the heavy guns have caused.

We don't even notice the danger, when the shrapnels explode round about the impudent bird that spies out everything.

The enemy is powerless against us, we can find out every position and every new movement.

*(Südd. Zeitung, October 27, 1914.)*



